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CONTENTS

BANGLADESH

Paper Reports President's Arrival in Senegal
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 19 Mar 81) 1

Text of Senegal-Bangladesh Joint Communique
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 22 Mar 81) 3

President Zia's 19 Mar Speech at Dakar Luncheon
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 21 Mar 81) 7

President Speaks at Reception in Bamako
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 22 Mar 81) 9

President Talks to Press on Return From Africa
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 23 Mar 81)..... 12

Mali, Bangladesh Issue Communique on Zia Visit
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 23 Mar 81) 14

Zia's Remarks on Communique
Summary of Communique

World Muslim League Delegation Visits Dacca
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 17 Mar 81) 16

Dacca, The Hague Sign Economic Cooperation Pact
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 19 Mar 81) 17

Dacca Denies Shortage of Funds for Cotton Purchase
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 22 Mar 81) 19

Japan SignsContract To Give Commodity Aid
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 19 Mar 81) 20

Dacca Parley Opposes Multinationals' 'Intrusion'
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 23 Mar 81) 21

Dacca Reported Eager for Imams' Services
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 10 Mar 81) 24

Journalists Union Leaders on Press Freedom
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 10 Mar 81) 25

Use of Overseas Workers' Remittances Studied
(Md. Akhtar Hossain Mondal; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER,
17 Mar 81) 26

South Asian Islamic Economic Chamber Plans Told
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 23 Mar 81) 29

Dacca Meeting Discusses Islamic Training Center
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 18 Mar 81) 30

Development of Technological Education Reviewed
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 21 Mar 81) 32

Jatya Juba Sangstha National Bodies Reorganized
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 20 Mar 81) 34

Awami League President Hasina Thanks Well-Wishers
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 20 Mar 81) 35

Indian Communist Sees Plot in Awami League Visit
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 18 Mar 81) 36

Awami League Groups Celebrate Mujib's Birthday
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 18 Mar 81) 37

PRC Visitor Praises Achievements in Birth Control
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 18 Mar 81)..... 39

Government Promotion of Exports Described
(Arham Masudul Huq; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 16 Mar 81) 40

Government Seeks To Encourage Jute Export
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 21 Mar 81) 42

President Visits Major Irrigation Projects
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 17 Mar 81) 43

Food Minister Reports Record Grain Procurement
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 22 Mar 81) 45

Self-Sufficiency in High-Yield Paddy Seeds Reached
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 20 Mar 81) 46

Excerpts of Finance Minister's ESCAP Speech
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 17, 18 Mar 81) 48

Czech-Supported Insulator Plant To Open in June
(THE BANGLADESH TIMES, 19 Mar 81) 53

Petroleum Minister Reports Untapped Resources
(THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 20 Mar 81) 55

Advantages of Gas Supply to Western Zone Seen
(M. I. Ali; THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 7 Mar 81) 57

Briefs
Press Institute Director 61
Public Information Officer 61
Chittagong Students Union 61
Islamic Reinsurance Corporation 62
Gram Sarkar Committee 62
Bianibazar Oil Drilling 62
Awami League Committee 62
Frankfurt Fair Sales 63
Baudouin Visit Planned 63
Fertilizer Plant Approved 63
Islamic Banking Seminar 63

INDIA

U.S. 'Risky Game' in Indian Ocean Analyzed
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 16 Mar 81) 64

U.S. Said to Misjudge Mood of Delhi Government
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 27 Mar 81) 67

Lok Sabha Discusses U.S. Arms Aid to Pakistan
(PATRIOT, 28 Mar 81) 69

Washington Correspondent Reports U.S. Aid Position
(N. Ram; THE HINDU, 27 Mar 81) 71

Experts 'Confused' Over Reagan Foreign Policy
(V. D. Chopra; PATRIOT, 16 Mar 81) 72

Delhi Stresses Consequences of Arms to Pakistan
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 30 Mar 81) 75

Report on Gandhi Speech to State Governors
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 Mar 81) 77

Report on Gandhi's Speech to Congress(I) Lawyers
(THE STATESMAN, 17 Mar 81) 79

CPI(M) Politburo Issues Statement on Gandhi
(PATRIOT, 18 Mar 81) 82

Congress(U) Official Discusses Relations With Congress(I)
(THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 29 Mar 81) 83

CPI General Secretary Issues Statement on Gujarat
(PATRIOT, 18 Mar 81) 85

French Team To Discuss Work on Bombay High
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 19 Mar 81) 86

France Reported Eager To Expand Ties With India
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 28 Mar 81) 87

Trudeau Reportedly Seeking Visit With Gandhi
(G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 28 Mar 81) 88

Farewell Ceremony Held for Vietnamese Envoy
(PATRIOT, 20 Mar 81) 90

Aryan League Warns Against Islam Conversion Plans
(THE HINDU, 27 Mar 81) 91

Shake Up in Central Bureau of Investigation Noted
(THE HINDU, 27 Mar 81) 93

Two-Month Curfew Begins on Indo-Burmese Border
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 Mar 81) 95

Assam Chief Minister Appeals for Cooperation
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 Mar 81) 97

Troubles on Uttar Pradesh-Bihar Border Reported
(THE HINDU, 28 Mar 81) 99

Gandhi Meets With Foreign Businessmen
(PATRIOT, 18 Mar 81) 102

Correspondent Assesses World Bank President's Visit
(PATRIOT, 29 Mar 81) 104

Growth in Multinationals' Assets Reported
(PATRIOT, 17 Mar 81) 105

Report on Gandhi's 29 Mar Speech in Orissa
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 30 Mar 81) 106

RSS Urges Nonpartisan Look at Reservations
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 30 Mar 81) 107

Congress(I) Faction Leader Rajasthan Deputy Speaker
(PATRIOT, 29 Mar 81) 108

Congress(U) Leader Speaks at Delhi Public Meeting
(PATRIOT, 16 Mar 81) 109

Scope for More Trade in Southeast Asia Claimed
(PATRIOT, 16 Mar 81) 110

Law Minister: 'Transfer of Judges in Public Interest'
(PATRIOT, 16 Mar 81) 111

Laldenga in Delhi After Talks With Mizo Front
(THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 29 Mar 81) 112

CPI Secretary General Rao's Statement on Dange
(PATRIOT, 17 Mar 81) 113

Reasons for Dange Expulsion From CPI Noted
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 17 Mar 81) 115

Dange Letter to CPI Leader Rao Released to Press
(THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 29 Mar 81) 117

Dange Expulsion May Give CPI Further Troubles
(THE TIMES ON INDIA, 30 Mar 81) 119

Vajpayee: BJP Against Overthrow of Bengal Front
(THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 29 Mar 81) 120

Assam Bom Explosions Attributed to 'Agents'
(PATRIOT, 30 Mar 81) 121

CPI Central Committee Resolution of Dange
(PATRIOT, 30 Mar 81) 122

Overseas Indians Seek Separate Union Ministry
(PATRIOT, 30 Mar 81) 123

CPI Executive Resolution Lauds Kisan Rally
(PATRIOT, 31 Mar 81) 124

New Delhi Lieutenant Governor Sworn In
(PATRIOT, 31 Mar 81) 126

Jammu, Kashmir Refugees Threaten Civil Disobedience
(PATRIOT, 31 Mar 81) 128

Summary of Gandhi's 18 March Speech to ICFTU
(PATRIOT, 19 Mar 81) 129

Law Minister: Parliament Can Amend Statutes
(PATRIOT, 19 Mar 81) 132

Bengal Left Front Leaders Speak at Rally
(THE STATESMAN, 16 Mar 81) 133

Congress, Janata Parties Ally Against Bengal Front
(PATRIOT, 19 Mar 81) 136

Bangladesh Visitors 'Overstaying' in West Bengal
(THE STATESMAN, 19 Mar 81) 138

Bengal Chief Minister Tells of Strife in Congress(I)
(THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 81) 140

Assam Chief Minister on Anti-Infiltration Measures
(THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 81) 141

Judge Issues Rule of Bengal Municipal Elections
(THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 81) 143

Home Minister Denies Intentions Against Bengal Front
(THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 29 Mar 81) 144

Center Investment in East Called 'Negligible'
(THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 81) 146

Lok Sabha Debate on Reservation Policy Reported
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 19 Mar 81) 148

Sheikh Abdullah Interviewed on Refugee Issue
(Sheikh Abdullah Interview; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 19 Mar 81) 150

Sikh Parley Passes Resolutions on Statehood
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 19 Mar 81) 151

Survey of Andhra Pradesh-Orissa Border Planned
(THE HINDU, 18 Mar 81) 153

Northern India Hindu Conference Held in Jammu
(THE HINDU, 18 Mar 81) 154

Lok Sabha Discusses Delhi-State Relations
(THE HINDU, 17 Mar 81) 155

Bihar Assembly Passes Finance Bill for 1981
(PATRIOT, 28 Mar 81) 156

Chief Minister Presents Himachal Pradesh Budget
(PATRIOT, 28 Mar 81) 158

Minister Describes New Approach to 5-Year Planning
(PATRIOT, 28 Mar 81) 159

President Reddy Speaks on Awards Presentation
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 28 Mar 81) 160

Gujarat Doctor Interviewed on Reservations Issue
(K. K. Katyal; THE HINDU, 30 Mar 81) 161

Delhi Names Members of Integration, Other Committees
(THE HINDU, 30 Mar 81) 163

Kerala Leader Opens South Indian History Parley
(THE HINDU, 30 Mar 81) 165

Tamil Nadu Brahmins Ask State Protection
(THE HINDU, 30 Mar 81) 166

Lok Sabha Discusses Plight of Refugees in Jammu
(V. S. Maniam; THE STATESMAN, 30 Mar 81) 167

Sheikh Maintains Occupied Kashmir a Part of India
(THE STATESMAN, 30 Mar 81) 169

Writer Notes Problems of Minorities Commission
(K. K. Katyal; THE HINDU, 16 Mar 81) 171

Venkataraman Replies to House Budget Discussion
(THE STATESMAN, 17 Mar 81) 175

Foreign Exchange Earnings From 'Invisibles' Up
(THE STATESMAN, 17 Mar 81) 177

Reserve Bank Adviser on Statutory Liquidity Ratio
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 30 Mar 81) 179

Press Reports Preliminary 1981 Census Results
(THE HINDU, 19 Mar 81, THE TIMES OF INDIA, 19 Mar 81) 181

Nationwide Figures Given
Population by States, Education
Population of Major Cities

Minister Reports on Bhel 'Tie-Up' With Siemens
(PATRIOT, 19 Mar 81) 184

Minister Reports on Bengal Land Distribution
(PATRIOT, 18 Mar 81) 186

Steps To Support Small Industries Recommended
(Nitish Chakravarty; THE HINDU, 17 Mar 81) 188

Barges To Transfer Building Supplies to Northeast
(THE HINDU, 16 Mar 81) 193

Press Agency Reports Crisis in Opium Export Trade
(PATRIOT, 16 Mar 81) 194

Jute Corporation To Resume Commercial Operation
(THE STATESMAN, 16 Mar 81) 195

Drought Causes Karnataka To Seek More Grain
(THE HINDU, 17 Mar 81) 196

Defense Scientists Develop New Tank Ammunition, Armor
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 30 Mar 81) 197

Bangalore Firm to Manufacture Jaguar Aircraft
(THE HINDU, 18 Mar 81) 198

Scientist Refutes Article on Prototype Plane
(THE HINDU, 17 Mar 81) 199

Commission Faces Problems in Setting Energy Policy
(V. S. P. Kurup; THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 Mar 81) 200

Minister Tells Status of Renewable Energy Projects
(THE HINDU, 16 Mar 81) 203

Refinery Capacity To Be Expanded in Sixth Plan
(PATRIOT, 28 Mar 81) 205

Foreign Help May Be Sought in Godavari Oil Hunt
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 28 Mar 81) 206

Petroleum Ministry's 1980-81 Report Summarized
(THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 81) 207

Delhi Raises Crude Oil Royalty for States
(PATRIOT, 19 Mar 81) 208

Shortcomings in Petroleum Institute Noted
(Bharat Dogra; PATRIOT, 18 Mar 81) 209

'PTI' Reports Crude Output To Be Doubled
(PATRIOT, 16 Mar 81) 212

USSR To Help in Activating Sick Oil Wells
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 16 Mar 81) 213

Coalfields Limited Head Talks to Newsmen
(PATRIOT, 16 Mar 81) 215

Chemical, Fertilizer Department Report Summarized
(PATRIOT, 29 Mar 81) 216

Financing for Orissa Aluminum Project Agreed
(THE HINDU, 27 Mar 81) 217

Reasons for Problems in Iron Mines Examined
(Bharat Dogra; THE STATESMAN, 28 Mar 81) 219

Study on Problems of Cement Industry Reported
(PATRIOT, 17 Mar 81) 221

Briefs

Indo-French Institute 222
Anjiah Elected 222
Assam Legislator's Denial 222
West German Visitors 222
Defense Studies School 223
Gandhi to Geneva 223
Bombay Name Change 223
Lok Dal, CPI Stands 223
Oil From Pakistan 223
Ships to USSR 224
West Bengal Byelections 224
Industrial Spying Case 224
Bihar Confidence Vote 224
Bengal Municipal Elections 224
Wheat Procurement Price 225
PREPAK Leader Killed 225
Aluminum Prices Up 225
Punjabi in Kashmir 225
PRC Invitation 225
Soviet-Aided Kerala Plant 226
Manipur Extremist Held 226
DMK Leaders Convicted 226
Goa Lieutenant Governor 226
Indo-Soviet Planning Group 226
National Conference Defectors 227

NEPAL

Editor of Banned Newspaper Publishes New Journals
(THE SUNDAY STATESMAN, 29 Mar 81) 228

Briefs

Indian Joint Ventures 229

PAKISTAN

U.S. Consul General's Trip to Bahawalpur
(Ehsan Ahmad Sahar; CHATAN, 1 Dec 80) 230

Need To Diversify Export Seen
(THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Apr 81) 231

Need Seen for Expansion of Retail Stores, Stable Prices
(Editorial; THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 2 Apr 81) 232

More Work Needed To Attain Self-Sufficiency in Agriculture
(Editorial; THE PAKISTAN TIMES, 6 Apr 81) 233

SRI LANKA

Left Parties Reportedly Tend Toward United Front
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 17 Mar 81) 235

Government Worried Over Rising Cost of Living
(THE TIMES OF INDIA, 18 Mar 81) 237

Briefs
District Council Elections 239

PAPER REPORTS PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL IN SENEGAL

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 19 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Dakar, March 18: The spontaneous grand colourful and heart warming welcome accorded to President Ziaur Rahman and speeches made by two Presidents at Dakar Yoff airport spelled a mood which indicates favourable atmosphere for developing closer relations in all fields between Bangladesh and Senegal.

Welcoming President and Begum Ziaur Rahman President Abdou Diouf termed visit 'glorious testimony of cordial relation and unflinching friendship and hoped this would enhance cooperation between Bangladesh and Senegal' to which President Zia replied 'we look forward to working in close cooperation in serving cause of peace, freedom and progress'.

Special Boeing 707 of Riman carrying President and Ziaur Rahman and forty two members entourage touched down at Dakar Yoff Airport at 5 50 BST and brought them to a country which was not only first in Africa to recognise independent Bangladesh but also first to establish summit level contact with it.

Land Mark

Speaking at the welcome ceremony at airport, President Zia described his visit as 'an important landmark' and also said he brought with him the warm greetings and good wishes of the people of Bangladesh for the brotherly people of Senegal.

'The spontaneous welcome accorded to us is a heart warming experience which will remain ever fresh in our memory', he added.

The President recalled Senegal's contribution to the resurgence of Africa and said the rapid strides made by her in various fields were well known in Bangladesh. He described the visit of former Senegal President Mr Senghor as a memorable event and said that it had strengthened the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

Text of President's speech:

My wife and I are deeply moved by your warm reception upon our arrival in your beautiful city. Our visit to Senegal is an important landmark in our rapidly growing relations with your great country.

I bring with me the warm greetings and good wishes of the people of Bangladesh for the brotherly people of Senegal. The spontaneous welcome accorded to us is a heart warming experience which will remain ever fresh in our memory.

Senegal's contribution to the resurgence of Africa and the rapid strides made by her in various fields are well known in Bangladesh.

The visit of your illustrious precedessor [as published] to Bangladesh was a memorable event which strengthened the bonds of friendship between our two countries.

Your election as the President of Senegal is indeed a recognition of the valuable leadership provided by you in the commendable efforts of the people of Senegal for rapid economic and social development.

As members of the United Nations, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Non-aligned Movement, Bangladesh and Senegal hold similar views on many of the international issues.

As in the past we look forward to working in close cooperation in serving the cause of peace, freedom and progress.

Once again on behalf of my wife, members of my delegation and on my own behalf I would like to express my profound appreciation and thanks for the friendly welcome accorded to us by the brotherly people of Dakar and Senegal. We wish them continuing progress and prosperity.

CSO: 4220/7406

TEXT OF SENEGAL-BANGLADESH JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Following is the text of joint communique issued in Dakar after the visit of Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman to Senegal on Friday:--

At the invitation of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Senegal and Mrs. Diouf, His Excellency the President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Begum Ziaur Rahman paid an official visit to Senegal from March 18 to 20 1981.

The President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Begum Ziaur Rahman were accompanied by a high level delegation including His Excellency Professor Mohammad Shamsul Huq, Minister of Foreign Affairs; His Excellency Mr. Daud Khan Mailis, Consultant to the President, Syed Amir Khasru, Secretary External Trade Division Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Abdul Quayyum Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. A. S. M. Khairul Alam Chief of Protocol Mr. Mahbabul Alam Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of the Government of Bangladesh and other dignitaries.

During his stay in Senegal, the President of the people's Republic of Bangladesh and members of his delegation visited the island of Goree and attented [as published] a gala performance by the national troupe at the Daniel-Sorano Theater.

These visits afforded them the opportunity to appreciate the rich, historical and cultural heritage of the Senegalese people.

President Abdou Diouf held exclusive talks followed by a working session which was attended by the members of their respective delegations.

Earlier, the two delegations held in-depth discussion relating to trade commerce culture scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The Senegalese delegation to this session was led by the Prime Minister, Mr. Habib Thiam and was composed of:

Mr. Jean Collin Minister of State Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic, Mr. Moustapha Niasse Minister of State in-charge of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Serigne Lamine Diop Minister of Rural Development and Craft Mr Falilou Kane Minister of Commerce Mr Daba Ka Minister of Information and Telecommunications Mr.

Diakha Dieng Chief Executive to the President of the Republic, Mr. Babacar Dios Roving Ambassador and several high ranking officials.

The Bangladesh delegation to this session was led by the Foreign Minister His Excellency Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq who was assisted among others by His Excellency Mr. Daud Khan Majlis Consultant to the President, His Excellency Mr. S. Tayebur Rahman Ambassador of Bangladesh to Senegal Syed Amir Khasru Secretary External Trade Division and Mr. Abdul Quayyum Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the Session held in an atmosphere marked by hutual [as published] understanding and frankh35 [as published] the delegations examined their mutual trust and solidarity characterising their friendly cooperation, the two delegations reaffirmed their determination to increase and diversity trade between their countries and coordinate their policy of industrialisation in certain sectors in the framework of common projects and exchange of experiences in the field of economic and social development. To this end, they reiterated their determination to contribute effectively through regular consultations towards the establishment of a just and equitable new world economic order. The two delegations also agreed to strengthen their bilateral relations in the fields of education culture scientific and technological research and also the development of new sources of energy.

In this regard they aggreed [as published] to hold at their earliest convenience in Dacca the Senegal Bangladesh Joint Commission Session which is considered a useful mechanism for the attainment [as published] of their major development objectives.

Inspired by the positive results obtained with regard to bilateral cooperation and considering the similarity of views on various international issues both delegations renewed the current political trends in various regions of the world. To their unflinching support for the principle enshrined in the United Nations Charter as well as the principle of the Non-aligned movement and the organisation of the Islamic Conference. [as published]

The two sides reiterated the necessity for respect for the principles for complete unity and solidarity, they concentrate their efforts towards the applications of these principle with a view to strengthening, in particular the bonds of solidarity among the countries of the Third World in general and the members of the Organization of Islamic Conference in particular in conformity with resolutions adopted at the recent conference of the Third Islamic Summit held at Tait. [as published]

The two delegations expressed concern over the escalation of the arms race and development of centres of tensions in the world. They expressed their desire to see the international community work towards total disarmamentt [as published] by appropriate steps for peaceful settlement of all disputges [as published] in the regions concerned.

To this effect they reaffirmed their desire for the establishment of zone of peace in the Indian Ocean in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Non-aligned Movement.

With regard to the Middle-East situation the two delegations declared their conviction for a just and lasting peace based on the withdrawal of Israel from all illegally occupied Arab territories, including Al-Quds, Al-Shahif, and on the restoration of the inaliekzable [as published] national rights of the Palestinian people including the right to establish an independent and sovereign state as well as the recognition of the PLO as the sole and legitimatte [as published] representative of the Palestinian people.

Concerning the Iran-Iraq conflict the two delegations were happy to note the encouraging results obtained by the Goodwill Committee of the Islamic Conference Organization of which Bangladesh and Senegal are both members. They expressed their desires for an immediate end to this conflict for the welfare of the peoples concerned and to enable them to live in peace and security.

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan the two tdelegations [as published] considered the presence of foreign troops in this country as a flagrant violation of the principle of the United Nations Charter and Non-alignment.

Consequently, they raffirmed [as published] their total support for the relevant resolutions of the United Nations the movement of the Non-aligned countries and the Islamic Conference and called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan to protect the independence of this country and to create conditions in which Afghan people are left free to decide their own future.

Considering the situation in Africa the two delegations expressed their deep concern over growing tension and conflict in several parts of the continent of Africa due to external interference thus posing a threat to peace and security of the continent.

They reaffirmed their conviction that differences between states should be resolved by peaceful means without any form of external pressure.

Considering the situation in Southern Africa, the two parties while noting with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by the United Nations underscored their adherence to the strict and urgent measures laid down for the accession on Namibia to independence in compliance with United Nations decisions and resolutions. They reaffirmed their solidarity with the people of Namibia in their legitimate struggle under the leadership of Swapo.

The two sides also called upon the five western powers members of the group on Namibian independence to continue their efforts in this direction by actively supporting the initiative taken by the international community under the auspices of the United Nations.

Touching on the unjust situation imposed on the black majority in South Africa the two sides vehemently condemend [as published] the inhuman policy of apartheid and reaffirmed their unflinching solidarity with the people of South Africa struggling for their freedom and the recognition of their inalienable rights to live in human dignity and freedom.

At the end of his visit the head of state of Bangladesh expressed deep satisfaction with the positive results obtained as regards bilateral cooperation

between Bangladesh and Senegal and its contribution to strengthening the relations of friendship and solidarity already existing between the two countries.

His Excellency President Ziaur Rahman on behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and on his own behalf expressed warmest thanks to His Excellency President Abdou Diouf the head of state and Mrs Abdou Diouf as well as the Government and People of Senegal for their warm welcome and the kind hispitality [as published] bestowed on them during their stay in Senegal.

His Excellency the President of the people's Republic of Bangladesh and Begum Ziaur Rahman extended an invitation to the President of the Republic of Senegal and Mrs Abdou Diouf to pay an official visit to Bangladesh. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. The partical [as published] arrangements for this visit shall be made through diplomatic channel.

CSO: 4220/7415

PRESIDENT ZIA'S 19 MAR SPEECH AT DAKAR LUNCHEON

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Following is the text of President Zia's speech at the luncheon hosted by the President of Senegal:

Your Excellency President Abdou Diouf, Madame Diouf, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatuallah Wa Barakatuhu.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me, my wife, and members of my delegation to be in your beautiful country and meet the leaders and the fraternal people of Senegal. I bring to you the warm greetings and profound goodwill of the people of Bangladesh. Our two peoples are bound by deep sentiments rooted in our shared religion, traditions and values. The spontaneity and the warmth of the welcome accorded us on our arrival here is an eloquent testimony to the friendly ties between our two countries.

Excellency, we had the pleasure of welcoming your illustrious predecessor in our country in 1974. We still cherish the memory of that visit. I have been looking forward to visiting your great country for a long time. We in Bangladesh recall with gratitude that Senegal was the first country in Africa to recognise Bangladesh after its emergence as an independent and sovereign state. To reciprocate the friendly sentiments of our Senegalese brethren, it was in Dakar that we opened our first resident embassy in Africa.

Bangladesh hails the resurgence of the peoples of the continent of Africa as a mighty political and economic force. The great human and material resources of this vast continent hold a great promise for the future of the world. We in Bangladesh look forward to working in close and harmonious cooperation with the friendly countries of the African continent.

It is a matter of gratification for us that relations between Bangladesh and Senegal happen to be especially close and friendly. Both of our countries are dedicated to peace, freedom and progress. As fellow members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Non-aligned movement, we share beliefs in common principles. We have the same objective in the creation of an environment of global peace, stability, freedom and justice. Ours is a common struggle to

combat the scourges of poverty and hunger, to secure economic freedom without sacrificing political liberty and to achieve growth without jeopardizing social justice.

Our two countries share common atittudes towards many issues and crisis that beset the international community. It is with deep dismay and concern that we view the crisis in the Middle East where Israeli intransigence continues to deny the just and legitimate claims of our brethren in Palestine. This denial of justice, coupled with the illegal annexation of Al Quds Al-Sharif, is a flagrant affront to the sentiments of Muslims and Christians alike. It is our deep conviction that a fair and lasting solution of the problem demands a complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands, and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to a state in their own homeland.

While we rejoice at the emergence of independent and sovereign Zimbabwe, we are distressed by the continued repression of the peoples of Namibia and Azania by the racist regime. We condemn it in unequivocal terms. We extend our unstited [as published] support to the freedom struggle of their heroic peoples. We are confident that the remaining vestiges of imperialism, racism and colonialism will soon be wiped out from the African continent.

It is a matter of deep anguish for us that the fratricidal war between Iraq and Iran continues. Both Senegal and Bangladesh as members of the OIC good offices committee are engaged in a common endeavour to bring an eary [as published] end to this tragic conflict. Let us hope and pray that inspired by the noble ideals and precepts of Islam the two brotherly countries will soon be able to end their discrd [as published] through a just honourable settlement.

We view with great concern the continued ordeal of our brotherly peoples of Afghanistan. We urge for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan leaving the people of Afghanistan free to choose their own destiny without any external interference.

The people of Senegal and Bangladesh confront a common challenge: that of overcoming underdevelopment. As we strive to achieve better quality of life for our own peoples we are both aware that the causes of our present state are imbedded in the inequitable global economic order. As in the past I hope our countries will continue to cooperate in the establishment of a new international economic order based on justice equity and fairplay.

Excellency, I wish to take this opportunity once again to felicitate you on your assumption of the high office of the President of Senegal. I wish to extend a cordial invitation to you and Madame Diouf to visit our country and thus provide our people with an opportunity to demonstrate their high esteem for you and your great country.

May I now request your excellencies and distinguished guests to join men [as published] in toast: To the health, happiness and long life of His excellency President and Madame Diouf. To the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Senegal and to the evergrowing friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and Senegal.

CSO: 4220/7411

PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT RECEPTION IN BAMAKO

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bamako (Mali) May 21:--President Ziaur Rahman last night said here that Bangladesh was looking forward to working in closest cooperation with Mali and other least developed countries for the success of the United Nations Conference on LDC's in Paris in September next, reports BSS.

Speaking at an official reception given by the Malian President in honour of the visiting Bangladesh leader, President Zia said, "the peoples of our two countries along with those of the other LDCs have to work together to mobilise world public opinion for speedy implementation of the immediate action programme for 1980's for these countries.

The President said that the widening disparity between rich and poor nations was a matter of grave concern for us. Tragically enough, he said, within the poor segement [as published] of the globe, there are again those who are poorer than others, that is the people of the LDCs.

The Bangladesh leader said that the problems of the countries like Mali and Bangladesh go deeper than that of the poverty only. The basic impediments in the form of inadequate infrastructures, resulting from centuries of neglect and exploitation have added a critical dimension to the situation confronting our countries, he added.

President Zia said "we also view with great distress that the basic human rights continue to be grossly violated in Namibia and Azania".

Reiterating Bangladesh's complete rejection of racism, imperialism and colonialism in any form or manifestation he said "the heroic struggle of the peoples of this region for freedom has our whole-hearted and unstinted support".

Referring to the Iran-Iraq war the Bangladesh leader said "it is a matter of deep anguish for us that the fatricidal war between two brotherly countries continue unabated.

"History teaches us that wars only divide and destroy. Let us pray that this tragedy come to a close quickly" he added.

President Zia reiterated Bangladesh's full support to resolutions of the United Nations, the Islamic Summit and the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference

for an early solution of the Afghan crisis by withdrawal of all foreign troops and leaving the country free to choose its own destiny without any external interference.

The Bangladesh President noted with deep dismay the deteriorating situation in the Middle East and said that the heroic people of Palestine continued to be denied their basic human rights.

He said that Bangladesh firmly stands by the decision and resolutions of the United Nations requiring the withdrawal of Israel from all illegally occupied territory including Jerusalem and the restoration to the Palestinians their inalienable national rights including their right to a state of their own.

Turning to the visit President Zia said, "ours is a mission of friendship and good will" and "I am confident that the present visit will forge new links of friendship and widen and deepen the areas of cooperation between Bangladesh and Mali".

He said that the geographical distance between two countries had not been able to separate the peoples. Our destinies are linked together, rooted in our history of shared values based on common faith and common ideals the President added.

He said that Bangladesh immensely valued the friendship that existed with Mali and hoped that the ties would grow from strength to strength in the coming days to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

The following is the text of President Ziaur Rahman's speech at the official reception given by the President of the Republic of Mali at Bamaka.

"Your Excellency President Moussa Traore, Madame Traore, distinguished brothers and sisters of Mali Excellencies ladies and gentlemen, Assalamualikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Borakatuhu, "I deem it a great honour and privilege to be in the brothely country of Mali. [as published] On behalf of the members of my delegation my wife and on my own behalf, I wish to express to you our sincere thanks for the very warm and gracious hospitality extended to us on our arrival in your beautiful capital city of Bamako. I bring to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of Mali the sentiments of profound friendship and goodwill of the Government and the people of Bangladesh.

"Ours is a mission of friendship and goodwill. I am confident that our present visit will forge new links of friendship and widen and deepen the areas of cooperation between our two countries. The kind sentiments which have just been expressed by Your Excellency are an eloquent testimony to the profound goodwill of the Government and people of Mali for the Government and people of Bangladesh. The geographical distance between our two countries has not been able to separate our two peoples. Our destinies are linked together, rooted in our history of shared values, based on a common faith and common ideals.

"We note with deep dismay the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East. The heroic people of Palestine continue to be denied their basic human rights. Bangladesh firmly stands by the decisions and resolutions of the United Nations requiring the withdrawal of Israel from all illegally occupied territory including

Jeruslem [as published] and the restoration to the Palestinian inalianable [as published] national rights including their right to a state of their own.

"We also view with great distress that the basic human rights continue to be grossly violated in Namibia and Azania. The heroic struggle of the peoples of this region for freedom has our whole-hearted and unstinted support. I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our complete rejection of racism, imperialism and colonialism in any form or maifestation.

"The widening disparity between the rich and poor nations is a matter of grave concern to us. Tragically enough, within the poor segment of the globe, there are again those who are poorer than others. I mean the people of the least developed countries. The problems of countries like Mali and Bangladesh go deeper than that of poverty only. The basic impediments in the form of inadequate infrastructures, resulting from centuries of neglect and exploitation have added a critical dimension to the situation confronting our countries. The peoples of our two cuntries [as published] along with those of the other least developed countries have to work together to mobilise world public opinion for speedy implementation of the immediate action programme for 1980s for these countries. In this connection we are looking forward to working in closest cooperation with Mali and other least developed countries for the success of the UN Conference on LDCs in Paris in September, 1981.

"It is a matter of deep anguish for us that the fratricidal war between our Iraqi and Iranian bretheren continue unabated. History teaches us that wars only divide and destroy. Let us pray that this tragedy comes to a close quickly.

"Not far from that battlefield another war continues to rage in Afghanistan. We reiterate our full support to the resolutions of the United Nations in the Islamic Summit and the Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference for an early solution of this crisis by withdrawal of all foreign troops and leaving the people of the country free to choose their own destiny without any external interference.

"Your Excellency we immensely value the friendship that exists between our two peoples. Let us hope that it will grow from strength to strength to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

"May I extend to Your Excellency and Madama Traore a very cordial invitation to visit our country in the near future so that we are provided an opportunity of acquainting you with the fund of goodwill and friendship that our people have us for your great people.

"May I request Your Excellencies and distinguished guests to join me in a toast: to the health happiness and long life of His Excellency President Moussa Traore and Madame Traore--to the continued peace progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Mali: and to the ever lasting cooperation and friendship between Mali and Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220/7415

PRESIDENT TALKS TO PRESS ON RETURN FROM AFRICA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] President Ziaur Rahman said in Dacca on Sunday that Bangladesh was already well-known in African continent and that his just concluded visits to Senegal and Mali would further strengthen and consolidate its ties with Africa, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen on return from state visits to two West African countries, the President said that there was "great scope" for cooperation between Bangladesh and the least developed and developing countries of Africa through which Bangladesh and the African nations would come closer.

The President who was accompanied by his wife during his visits, held talks with Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and President Moussa Traore of Mali on bilateral, regional and international matters of common interest.

The Presidential entourage included Foreign Minister Prof M. Shamsul Huq Consultant to the President Mr Daud Khan Majlish and Secretary of the Foreign Trade Division Mr Amir Khasru.

President Zia said that he and members of his entourage were given 'very big and spontaneous receptions in both the countries whose people have warm feelings for the people of Bangladesh. [as published]

On his visit to Dakar, the President said it was agreed to expand cooperation between the two countries in the field of trade and commerce. He said soon a delegation from Dakar would visit Bangladesh under the purview of Joint Commission to discuss areas of increasing cooperation in different sectors between the two countries.

He said that two countries had also agreed to set up a shipping line and added that Bangladesh would extend cooperation for setting up of more jute mills in Senegal. A jute mill is already being set up there with the assistance from Bangladesh he recalled.

President Zia said that the two countries had also agreed to cooperate in the field of agriculture science technology education and cultural fields. He said delegations would be exchanged between the two countries in these fields.

He said the Senegalese Government had made special request for introduction of Bangladeshi films in that country. In this connection he mentioned that a number of African Middle Eastern and South-East Asian countries have expressed their interest in our films for cooperation and exchange. He said soon we would send a film delegation to the African countries.

On his visit to Bamako President Zia said that Bangladesh and Mali had set up a Joint Commission which would meet in the capitals of the two countries on different occasions.

He said that two countries had agreed for exchange and cooperation in the fields of education, science technology and specially in the agricultural fields.

The President said that there was scope for employment of technical persons from Bangladesh in different fields in Mali.

President Zia expressed the hope that heads of state of Senegal and Mali would soon visit Bangladesh.

He said that on his way back from Bamako, he made a stop over at Jeddah where he held discussions with the Guniean President Ahmed Sekou Toure who is also the Chairman of the Islamic Peace Mission, and Habib Chatti, Secretary-General of the OIC. He said during the brief stopover 'we discussed the issues about Iran-Iraq war. Very soon we would meet in Jeddah and possibly from there we would go to Iran and Iraq' he said adding 'we have received 'favourable response' from the two countries.

The President said that at the Jeddah airport the President of Islamic Development Bank was also present with whom he discussed economic matters.

President Zia was received at the airport by Vice-President Justice Abdus Sattar Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman Cabinet Ministers Chiefs of three Services and high-ranking civil and military officials.

CSO: 4220/7417

MALI, BANGLADESH ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON ZIA VISIT

Zia's Remarks on Communique

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Bomako, March 22:--President Ziaur Rahman has expressed happiness over his two-day state visit to the Republic of Mali saying that a new vista has been opened in bilateral cooperation between the two countries for bringing the two peoples closer, reports BSS.

The President was speaking at a simple ceremony at the presidential palace at Koulouha during the signing of the joing communique issued on the visit.

He said, Bangladesh and Mali having similar economy and long years of colonial exploitation and bounded by religious faternity [as published] and Afro-Asian solidarity could benefit their peoples through mutual cooperation. We are among the least developed countries despite our vast unexploited resources, he said adding we should cooperate with each others in regional, international and economic fields upholding our faternal [as published] feelings.

Referring to the role of Bangladesh and Mali in the U.N., Non-aligned and O.I.C. forums the President appreciated the Malian proposal for "south dialogue".

President Zia also expressed his happiness over the agreement between the two countries setting up of joint commission to 'review cooperation between them'. This he said will help us to cooperate with Mali in agricultural and other fields.

Speaking on the occasion, Malian President General Moussa Traore said, the political willingness of the two countries was sure to bring us closer. President Traore expressed his dismay over 'unfairness' of the North-South dialogue and said, the dialogue can not be fair when countries like ours are suffering because of an unjust world economic order.

President Traore hoped that mutual and positive cooperative between them could contribute to the upliftment of economy of both the countries since our monetary and material resources are limited.

Praising the Leadership of Bangladesh President for forging unity among the 'LDC' President Traore hoped that the visit of President Zia was another example of his (President Zia's) leadership and wisdom.

Summary of Communique

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh and Mali have agreed to cooperate in the fields of education, science and culture and to exchange delegations to deepen the relations between them in these fields, reports BSS.

A joint communique issued at the end of President Ziaur Rahman's two-day state visit to Mali at the invitation of President General Traore, said that the two sides agreed to conclude a cultural agreement at an early date to develop closer cultural relations.

The two Presidents, according to the communique appreciated the similarities of views held by the two countries on many subjects of mutual interest. They reiterated their determination for the steady development of cordial relations and close cooperation specially in the field of trade, economy education, science and culture. They emphasised their mutual desire to further promote and strengthen these relations and enlarge the areas of mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields. To foster closer relations the two sides agreed to exchange Ambassadors at an early date, the communique added.

Exploring the possibility of promoting trade and economic cooperation, both President Zia and President Traore reviewed in particular the prospects of possible cooperation in the agriculture sector. It was decided that an expert level committee would be formed shortly to examine a joint venture in agriculture in Mali especially in the production of rice.

The two Presidents, according to the joint communique, expressed their desire to set up a joint commission to promote and keep under review the developments in various areas of bilateral relations.

Reviewing the global situation, the Presidents of Bangladesh and Mali emphasised the need for promoting and strengthening international peace and security based on the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, non-interference in each others internal affairs non-use of force and peaceful settlement of all disputes. They also underscored the importance of strict adherence to the basic principles of United Nations Charter the Non-aligned movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference as a vital and important instrument for peace and security in the world.

The two Presidents also reviewed the international economic situation and expressed their resolve to continue to work together and strive for the establishment of a new international economic order based on equity and justice with special attention paid to the needs of the least developed countries at an early date.

The communique expressed satisfaction that the visit of the Bangladesh President was an important land mark in the growing relations between the two countries. The visit, it noted, would assist in further widen and deepen the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation.

CSO: 4220/7417

WORLD MUSLIM LEAGUE DELEGATION VISITS DACCA

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The four-member Rabetat-e-Alam Al-Islam delegation led by its Secretary-General Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al-Harkan left Dacca on Monday for Saudi Arabia after a six-day visit to Bangladesh.

Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmed Religious Minister Mr. Abdur Rahman Secretary Ministry of Sports Culture and Religious Affairs Mr. Siddiqur Rahman and Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Sheikh Fouad Abdul Hameed Al Khateeb were among others to see off the delegation at the airport.

Prior to his departure, Mr. Harkan told B.S.S. that he was very much impressed by the Islamic activities undertaken by the Government in Bangladesh. He also appreciated the keen efforts of Bangladesh to foster relations with other Muslim countries.

The Secretary-General of Rabetat lauded the role of Dacca for holding international seminars and conferences on Islamic activities particularly the conference on Muslim education.

He expressed his gratitude to President Ziaur Rahman for the "warm hospitality" and also to the people of Bangladesh for giving hearty receptions during their stay in the country.

The delegation during their stay in Bangaldesh called on the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Home Minister Religious Minister and Relief Minister.

Mr. Al-Harkan also held discussion with the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmed on various projects and programmes of Bangladesh Government.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali Harkan also visited the Rabatat hospital at Cox's Bazar attended the Bicentennial celebrations of "Madrasa-i-Aliah", visited the Islamic Foundation and the Baitul Mukharram Mosque. They were also accorded a reception by the Council for Islamic Socio-Cultural Organisation (CICSO).

The other members of the delegations were Mr. Mohammad Safwat Assagga Amini, Assistant Secretary-General, Rabetat-e-Alam Al-Islam Mr. Adnan Khadil Basha Director General and Mr Rahya Ahmed Motahar Director of the organisation.

CSO: 4220/7402

DACCA, THE HAGUE SIGN ECONOMIC COOPERATION PACT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] The Royal Dutch Government will provide Bangladesh an untied grant of 94 million gilders (47 million US dollars) during the current fiscal year, under an agreement signed in Dacca on Wednesday reports BSS.

The grant can be utilised for procurement of goods and services from the Netherlands and developing countries including Bangladesh itself.

Mr. M. Saadat Hussain Joint Secretary External Resources Division and Mr. W. Sinninghe Damste, the Dutch Ambassador in Bangladesh signed the agreement for their respective governments.

They described the economic cooperation between the two countries as 'excellent' and 'very good.'

A Dutch official delegation led by the Ambassador and officials of External Resources Division and different Ministries held a three-day talks from March 13 covering a wide-ranged bilateral economic cooperation. [as published]

A Press release said that the Dutch team agreed that the Netherlands Government will continue assisting Bangladesh in the existing projects in the context of the requirements of her Second Five-Year Plan.

Mrs. E. Badon Ghijben head of the South-East Asia Department of Regional Cooperation Department of the Dutch foreign office, and Mr. P J The Marres and Mr J P Petri, officials of economic department of the Netherlands came to Bangladesh for the talks leading to the signing of the agreement.

The main allocation from the grant will include 30 million gilders for fertilizer 10 million gilders for raw cotton 5 million gilders for fertiliser godowns, 2 million Gilders for potato seeds 10.35 million gilders for early implementation project 3.2 million gilders for land reclamation project 3.5 million gilders for medical assistants' training schools at Bagerhat and Comilla. Two million dollars for population control, and 6.7 million dollars for rehabilitation of textile mills. [as published]

The Dutch Ambassador said that despite economic difficulties in his own country the Government of Netherlands would continue its assistance programme in Bangladesh.

Mr. Sinnighe said that his country would improve the quality of aid and concentrate in areas where 'we have special expertise.'

Replying to a question he said that in the near future some private sector investments from his country might materialise.

Thanking the Dutch Government for the assistance Mr. Saadat Hussain said that this has been particulary [as published] helpful for Bangladesh in the important sectors like water management, rural development health agricultural production as well as transport.

Since 1972 the Dutch Government has provided Bangladesh with 890 million Gilders (445 million dollars) of which 95 per cent was in the form of grant and 5 per cent as loan. Forty per cent of the total amount was for agricultural development 25 per cent for industrial projects, 20 per cent for water management flood control and inland water transport 10 per cent for health rural development and social welfare and 5 per cent for transport sector.

One fifth the size of Bangladesh, Netherlands has a population of 14 million.

CSO: 4220/7407

DACCA DENIES SHORTAGE OF FUNDS FOR COTTON PURCHASE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 81 p 12

[Text] The government on Saturday clarified that there is no shortage of funds for the purchase of cotton and denied the allegation that the cotton buying programme is being hampered due to financial constrains, [as published] reports BNA.

An official handout issued in Dacca said Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation and Cotton Development Board have so far purchased 20 thousand maunds of cotton through their 79 purchasing centres.

The handout said that purchase of cotton is continuing on an emergency basis under the scheduled programme and is expected to be completed by April.

An amount of about Taka two crore and 50 lakh has already been despatched the purchasing centres. [as published] Necessary funds have also been allocated to purchase rest of the cotton the handout said.

Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation opened 44 Cotton Purchasing Centres and Cotton Development Board opened the 35 centres in different areas early February this year.

Textile Minister, State Minister for Textile and high officials of the BTMC visited the cotton growing areas and supervised and inspected the purchase of cotton the handout said.

CSO: 4220/7415

JAPAN SIGNS CONTRACT TO GIVE COMMODITY AID

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 19 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Under an exchange of notes signed in Dacca on Wednesday Japan will provide an untied commodity grant of about Taka 11.58 crore (1,591 billion yarn), reports BSS.

The grant alongwith its interest accrued will be utilised by Bangladesh for importing a wide variety of items among which will be industrial raw materials and constables, chemicals spares machinery and equipment. [as published]

The grant will be a debt relief measure extended to developing countries in response to an UNCTAD resolution.

The first similar grant of Taka 7.66 crore and the second one of Taka 9 crore was extended by Japan in 1979 and 1980 respectively.

Mr Muhammad Ali, Joint Secretary, External Resources Division and Mr Toru Iwanami Charge d'Affaires of Japan while signing the agreement said that the economic cooperation between the two countries was 'excellent'.

Mr Iwanami said that the economic cooperation between the two countries was expanding fast.

He said that Japan was participating in more and more areas of economic development in Bangladesh.

Mr Ali said that Japan was the second largest among bilateral donors of economic aid to Bangladesh. Japan, he said is financing some of the priority projects in Bangladesh like generation of power, agriculture and industrial sectors.

CSO: 4220/7406

DACCA PARLEY OPPOSES MULTINATIONALS' 'INTRUSION'

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Technology cannot be borrowed. It has to be acquired and developed from within the country.

This was the consensus of opinion of the engineers at the seminar on 'technological development in Bangladesh' organised by the Federation of Engineering Institutions of South and Central Asia (FEISCA) in Dacca on Sunday.

The engineers from Bangladesh India Nepal and Sri Lanka at the seminar made a strong plea for stopping indiscriminate import of stly technology which they said greatly undermined local innovative skills. [as published]

They also called for halting intrusion of multinationals and for breaking the vicious circle of vested interests which stood in the way of development of indigenous technology.

The engineers at the seminar also called for an [word illegible] of all research and development activities by establishing a central coordinating body in the country. This should be done through an well-thoughout [as published] technological plan keeping in view the needs of the country they said.

Dr R. A. Ghani State Minister for Science and Technology was the chief guest at the seminar which was presided over by Dr A Bhattacharayya of the Institution of Engineers, India.

Mr A M Al-Hussainy, Member Planning Commission, Dr Anwarul Azim of Engineering University and Dr Amoul Huq Section Chief, Planning Commission presented three papers at the seminar.

Dr R A Ghani emphasised the need for creating a technological base by fully utilising the innovative skills of the local people for development of science and technology.

The State Minister called for being selective about import of equipment and machinery without which local innovative skills could not be developed.

Sound Planning

He said that a sound technological planning was needed for the purpose. The research efforts of the universities, research organisation, and individuals should be coordinated to avoid duplication in terms of both manpower and finance.

Dr Ghani made a strong plea for adequate investment in research and development activities, training of scientists and technologists and for development of skilled manpower. Firm political will, national commitment and determination were needed for this he said.

The State Minister for Science and Technology called for breaking the vicious circle of vested interests who were obstructing the efforts aimed at developing a sound technological base in the country.

He also called for redesigning the education style, with proper emphasis on science and technology for infusing needed enthusiasm among young students.

Dr A Bhattacharaya called for putting a halt to intrusion of multinationals to create an atmosphere conducive to technological development. Technology cannot be borrowed it has to be built, he said.

He said that the engineers; designers and technologists of the countries of South and Central Asia region were not incapable of doing things because they appeared to the quite successful while they work abroad. [as published] Their talents should be properly recognised and they should be encouraged to work with similar vigour within their own countries.

Dr A Bhattacharaya cautioned against copying of the models of the developed countries which he said, flourished by selling products in protected markets--the colonies. We should stop indiscriminate imports and develop intellectual capabilities to match the challenge before us; he said.

Mr Al-Hussainy called for an integrated approach to development of science and technology for coordination of research and development activities and for relating those to the ecinomic [as published] needs.

He said that the supervision machinery for guiding scientists in their research efforts should be strengthened. At present even the machinery for monitoring progress was absent; he said.

Develop from Below

Mr Al-Hussainy said that technology should develop from below. Import of technology should be selective keeping in view the ability of the users to run and maintain those; he said.

He called for development of human infrastructure for technological development by redesigning the curricula in the schools for developing curiosity among children.

Dr Anwarul Azim said that the aim of technological development should be the betterment of the economic conditions of the masses. While undertaking technological planning one should be particular about bad effects of technological development; he said.

Dr Anwarul Azim said that import of foreign technology and goods had already forced many potters blacksmiths in the rural countryside out of job. Unplanned technological development could also cause environmental hazards he said.

Citing scores of examples of low rated technologies employed for manufacture of shoes dools clothes artificial flowers plastic goods he said that such technologies could be further improved and developed by careful planning.

Dr Aminul Huq called for initiating evaluation of performances in different sectors of production to ascertain the place where Bangladesh stood in technological capabilities.

Confce Ends

The four-day second meeting and conference of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of South and Central Asia was concluded on Sunday after election of new office-bearers at a business session.

Dr A Bhattacharaya of the Institution of Engineers India was elected President while Mr A Maheshwaram of Sri Lanka and Mr Serajul Majid Mamun of Bangladesh were elected the Vice-President and the Secretary General.

With this election the Secretariat of FEISCA will move to Dacca from New Delhi.

The Executive Committee of the Federation includes two members each from the engineering institutions of Bangladesh India Nepal and Sri Lanka.

CSO: 4220/7418

DACCA REPORTED EAGER FOR IMAMS' SERVICES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Mar 81 p 8

[Text] Religious Affairs Minister Mr. Abdur Rahman said in Dacca on Monday that the Government was keen to effectively utilise the services of the Imams of mosques in the socio-economic development activities now going on throughout the country, says a PID handout.

He said that the comprehensive Imam training programme undertaken by his Ministry aimed at enabling the Imams to implement the injunctions of the Quarn and Sunnah as a complete code of life and to contribute positively in the nation-building endeavours.

The Religious Affairs Minister was distributing certificates and first aid boxes among 185 Imams of the 7th batch who completed a 45-day multi disciplinery training course conducted by the Islamic Foundation. [as published] Presided over by Mr. Fayezuddin Ahmed, Secretary of the Establishment Division the function was also addressed by Mr. Mahbubul Alam Chaslu, Special Secretary Swanirvar.

Mr. Abdur Rahman exhorted the trained Imams to sincerely serve the people and provide proper leadership in the uplift activities in their respective areas along with their religious functions.

A total number of 925 Imams have so far been trained by the Islamic Foundation in seven batches under the Imam training programme initiated in November 1979. They have been imparted both theoretical and practical training in various disciplines, such as co-operative cottage industry agricultural extension pisciculture, poultry farming mass literacy nutrition, primary health care etc.

The names of 19 trained Imams who had put in outstanding field performances in 1979-80 were also announced at the function. They will be honoured with suitable awards later in recognition of their services.

Earlier, the Religious Affairs Minister Mr. Abdur Rahman inaugurated the re-excavation of Sholakura Chachua canal in Kalihati police station of Tangail district. The canal will benefit 800 acres of land yielding 8 thousand maunds of additional crops a year.

CSO: 4220/7398

JOURNALISTS UNION LEADERS ON PRESS FREEDOM

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and the [word illegible] of Journalists expressed concern at the obstructions to freedom of expression intolerance to democratic norms and aspersion on working journalists by certain sections of the people, reports ENA.

A statement issued on Monday jointly by Mr. Ahmed Humayun and Mr. Reazuddin Ahmed, President and Secretary-General of BFUJ and Mr. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Mr. Amanullah Kabir, President and General Secretary of DUJ respectively referred to the recent activities of Nationalised Bank Employees Federation on reports published in daily ITTEFAQ.

They said, the bank employees association questioned the honesty of journalists and made aspersion on them in general. This tantamount to infringement on the rights of journalists and also an attack against freedom of expression. [as published]

If anyone had grievances against any report, he could issue rejoinder and also appeal to the Press Council seeking justice, they added.

The leaders of journalists union further said freedom of the Press still remained the freedom of the newspaper owners in this country. The government-owned newspapers and news agency are being used as government propaganda media and those under private ownership are being utilised in the interest of the owners. Under the situation, the journalists union is continuing its struggle for freedom of expression of all opinions in the greater interest of the nation.

The leaders of BFUJ and DUJ sought cooperation of people of all shades and opinion to achieve the objective of freedom of expression.

CSO: 4220/7398

USE OF OVERSEAS WORKERS' REMITTANCES STUDIED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Mar 81 p 5

[Article by Md. Akhtar Hossain Mondal]

[Text] The fact is undeniable that manpower export has brought about a considerable change in our economy when millions of people are unemployed and suffer economic stringency. We are now in a position to gain greater benefit by exporting manpower. Every action is followed by reaction. So a question springs up whether we are going to face adverse economic effect resulting from continuous export of manpower. It is clear to all that manpower export means export of productive labour force contributing to the economy of a nation. Needless to mention here that those who gain jobs in Middle East or abroad leave this land with a view to earning more. They, send us their earnings in exchange for their skill, energy, labour and service. It is relevant to make further mention of the fact that the nation will derive little benefit from the earners serving abroad in case their income is deposited with foreign banks or spent in buying property or houses abroad without sending it to their homeland. Quite a good number of trained, qualified, efficient and expert personnel from different sectors of our economic base have gained job and left for Middle East and many of their comtemporaries are leaving no stone unturned to obtain job abroad.

Our economic development will partially depend on how the remittances are spent or invested. Mere purchase of land without making investment in industrialisation or in other forms of productive economic base may add little boost to our national economy. And framing of effective poicy [as published] and its implementation aiming at giving incentive to the earners to spend money for improving or expanding the bases of cottage industries may go a long way in ensuring positive results in this regard. The remittances forming a considerable portion of our national income in foreign currency should be properly mobilised without which upward trend in price will have further pushing. The steps recently taken by the Government with an increase in bank rate of interest are encouraging and incentive-giving to the earners and to the beneficiaries of the remittances. The earners or the beneficiaries of the remittances may be compelled to deposit a certain percentage of the amount as savings which should be encouraged by higher rate of interest and the consideration of finalising such a provision as may encourage and ensure more savings seems to be deserving in this days of economic hardship. [as published] Some provisions under Wage Earner Scheme are expected to act as positive steps towards ensuring more remittances from them.

The decision of the Government to issue certain instruments at attractive rate of interests is a direct step towards this direction and may go a long way in ensuring the use of the funds from their remittances in the economic development of the land.

It is also a fact that a certain percentage of the foreign exchange coming into Bangladesh is being primarily used for some productive investment through imports of capital goods, raw materials, essential consumer goods and spare parts. Nevertheless, there is no gainsaving the fact that a considerable portion of the remittances is now being largely used for investment in real estates, purchase of jewellery and for luxurious living which will surely result in economic, social and price problems. It is in the interest of the national economy that the funds coming from Bangladeshi nationals serving abroad should be properly channelised towards productive uses both in public and private sectors. There should be some agencies to mobilise savings from the earners for investment in productive channels. It is a good suggestion by some quarters that the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh should play a vital role in this regard and there should be a special cell of industry directorate aimed at assisting the wage earners in their attempts to complete the necessary formalities for setting up industries.

The unscrupulous and fictitious agencies and the dishonest middlemen are exploiting the Bangladeshi job seekers who are poor and many of which manage money by selling their land or real estates they possess. Malpractices by fake recruiting agencies render many of the job seekers landless. Absence of Gazetted rules and guides in the local recruiting agencies, the mushroom growth of unauthorised recruiting agents fraudulent activities of the dishonest recruiting agents both at home and abroad, absence of any quota system for export of manpower made by Government to licenced recruiting agents stand in the way of smooth manpower export.

It is also a fact that sometimes imaginary and bogus foreign companies come here for selection of Bangladeshis and the credulous people fall easy victim to their trickery and sustain heavy monetary loss. Solution to this problem should be found out. It may be mentioned here that any demand of manpower from abroad should be first carefully checked and verified to test its genuineness and then the selection should be made by the bonafide recruiting agencies. The private recruiting agencies may be entrusted with some specific responsibilities bringing them under the purview of law. To check fraudulent activities our diplomatic missions abroad should have a list of the authorised or bonafide recruiting agents in this regard.

Reports on the demand of the Bangladeshi workers abroad reveal that Saudi Arabia needs construction workers, Doha requires fishermen for deep seafishing, Bahrain is in need of high-skilled technicians for oil field, oil refinery and also for workshops while Kuwait needs industrial workers automobile engineers and mechanics. To meet the requirements the abovementioned countries may continue to need the service of Bangladeshis who will be able to earn millions of dollars in the years to come. So adequate steps should be geared up to produce experts in the aforesaid avocations.

Manpower export should not be discouraged at all events so long as the country remains burdened with acute problem of overpopulation, unemployment and food-deficit. But it is wise on our part to think whether the manpower export is a

drain on the country's wealth of know-how and expert personnel. So manpower export should not be encouraged by creating vacuum in various sectors of our economic base. Otherwise it may so happen that in future we shall have to export efficient and expert personnel by spending much more than the amount coming from our earners abroad. To combat the situation arising out of continuous manpower export, adequate steps should be taken for turning our non-productive force into a productive one that can simultaneously cover the vacuum in our economic base and fetch foreign exchange to add to our national exchequer.

CSO: 4220/7404

SOUTH ASIAN ISLAMIC ECONOMIC CHAMBER PLANS TOLD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 23 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Mr M A Wahab; former President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry; was elected Vice-President of the Islamic Economic Chamber for South Asian Zone for the second time for another term of next two years.

Mr Wahab had led a 6-member delegation to the second general assembly meetings of the Islamic Economic Chamber in Kuwait where he submitted his proposal for setting up of an Islamic Reinsurance Corporation for cooperation in the field of reinsurance among the Muslim countries.

The proposal was approved by the meeting and it was also decided that the first meeting of experts on reinsurance of all the Muslim countries should be held in Dacca on September; 1981.

Meanwhile; the fourth meeting of the General Assembly of the Islamic Economic Chamber will be held in December 1982.

The proposal for establishing a high powered commission for the establishment of the "Islamic common market" was also accepted in the meeting.

CSO: 4220/7418

DACCA MEETING DISCUSSES ISLAMIC TRAINING CENTER

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Mar 81 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman on Tuesday urged the Muslim countries to give full cooperation and necessary assistance in setting up the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) in Dacca.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the first consultative meeting of national experts of the Organisation of Islamic Conference on curriculum design and staff development of the ICTVTR at a local hotel in Dacca.

Shah Aziz said that the ICTVTR was meant to impart education on different branches of science and technology. It would also provide adequate knowledge about Islamiat.

He expressed his confidence that the ICTVTR would one day be turned into a university.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Sheikh Faud Abdul Hamid Al-Khatib's Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ICTVTR Mr ABS Safdar, Secretary, Ministry of Manpower and Social Welfare and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the ICTVTR and Mr Rafiquddin Ahmed, Director of the ICTVTR. [as published]

Out of the forty-member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the three-day expert level consultative meeting is being attended by Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia Oman Turkey Malaysia Indonesia Kuwait Pakistan Iran Iraq Libya and PLO. Besides experts from the international and regional organisations including UNIDO, ESCAP, ILO UNESCO CPSC and SESRTIC are also attending the meeting.

Recalling the immense contribution of Muslim scholars to the fields of science technology medicine and agriculture the Prime Minister said that the ICTVTR would help in keeping Muslims abreast with the modern science and technology. He said that science and technology were compatible with Islam. Islam, he added, was the religion of all ages till the day of resurrection.

The inaugural session of the three-day consultative meeting of the ICTVTR was addressed by Mr ABS Safdar, Secretary of the Ministry of Manpower and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the ICTVTR, Dr Rafique Uddin Ahmed, Director of the

ICTVTR and Sheikh Fuad Abdul Hamid Al Khatib, Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the tion to 650 trainees and teachers. [as published]

The Saudi Ambassador hoped that the centre would become a symbol of Islamic fraternity through exchange of scientific and technical knowledge among the member countries of the OIC.

The ICTVTR Director Dr. Rafique Uddin Ahmed said that the experts participating in the meeting would help in formulating recommendations on curriculum design and staff development of the ICTVTR. The recommendations will be placed before the fourth meeting of the Board of Directors of ICTVTR. The meeting is being participated by national experts from the member countries of the OIC and also by representatives from UNESCO, UNIDO, ESCAP ILO Colombo Plan Staff College.

In his speech Mr. ABS Safdar said that the construction work of the ICTVTR would start this month and the centre could be fully operational in August, 1983.

CSO: 4220/7405

DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION REVIEWED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 21 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh has 1.5 technician and 0.5 skilled worker per engineer to work with while according to international standards the proportion of engineers; technicians and skilled workers should be 1:5:25. [as published]

This was stated by Dr A M Sharfuddin; Additional Secretary; Ministry of Education, in a paper titled "Science and Technology Education today at the primary and secondary levels in Bangladesh", which he presented at the first general session of the on-going national workshop on 'out-of-school science and technology education' in Dacca on Friday.

Held at the National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST); the first general session was presided over by Mr M. F. Khan; ex-Additional Secretary; Ministry of Education.

Dr Sharfuddin in his paper pointed out that the development of technological education in our country had been lop-sided.

He said that since education had traditionally been looked upon as an avenue for white-collar jobs; development of manipulative and productive skills has been solely neglected'. [as published] This has resulted in the contradictory situation of large scale unemployment of educated youths and serious shortage of skilled manpower in the agricultural; industrial and service sectors of our economy he said.

Major Weaknesses

Dr Sharfuddin noted that among the major weaknesses of the science and technology education in Bangladesh were the shortage of qualified teachers and trained teachers; lack of indigenously produced equipment; antiquated teaching methods, lack of suitable textbooks, teachers' guides and teaching aids including cocurricular reading materials.

"An overriding problem is the traditional approach to education which is basically oriented towards rate memorization an approach inherently antithetical to science and not geared to human resource development and improvement in productivity" he pointed out. [as published]

Rural Manpower

Pointing out that the situation regarding Science & TEchnology in the country had been highlighted in the draft Second Five Year Plan (1980-85) Dr Sharfuddin said "the Planning Commission has recognised that rural development in our context is not possible without the development of the large rural manpower". The achievement of Universal Primary Education and Eradication of illiteracy have therefore been given high priority in the plan he added.

Dr Sharfuddin however pointed out that these programmes must simultaneously be coupled with a reorientation of the system of education which will have to move away from rate memorization and inculcate the spirit of inquiry and emphasize the explornation [as published] of nature and the application of scientific knowledge and skills to the problems of production.

Dr Ibrahim

In another paper titled "Role of Science Clubs in out of school science and technology education the author Dr Muhammad Ibrahim called for utilizing the experience with science clubs in reorganzing the education system in the country. [as published]

Dr Ibrahim pointed out that a new true-to-life education system would have to evolved [as published] side by side with the academic education system in the interest of universal education.

CSO: 4220/7411

JATYA JUBA SANGSTHA NATIONAL BODIES REORGANIZED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Mar 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The government has reorganised the national committee and the national executive committee of the Bangladesh Jatiya Juba Sangstha.

Vice-President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar and State Minister for youth development Mr Abul Kashem has been made the chairman and the general secretary of the 51-member reorganised national executive committee.

The national committee comprises 151 members.

According to a press release of the Ministry of Youth Development the national executive committee also includes the vice-chairmen, four secretaries, five joint secretaries, 21 organising secretaries and 14 other members.

They are Vice-chairmen--Messrs Enayetur Rahman, Abul Haris Chowdhury, Denis Dilip Datla, Sheikh Ataur Rahman and Anwarul Huq Manu, secretaries--Shakhawat Hossain Rantu, Golam Mohiuddin Khan, Tasluna Abed and Muzaffur Hossain, joint secretaries--Rezaur Rahman, AKM Ruhul Amin, Rafique Islam Dhulu, Shawkat Hossain Chowdhury and Mujibur Rahman.

Organising Secretaries: Messrs Abdul Ali Mridha SM Nazmul Huq Tara, Dulal Biswas, Kainajuddin Sayeed, Habibul Huq Khan Benu, Mohammad Akbar, Emranur Rez, Abdur Raheem Jewel, Abdullah Chowdhury, Chinmay Mutsuddi, Mohammad Selim, Monirul Huda, Harun-ar-Rashid, Sajedur Rahman, AZM Saled Faruk, Azgar Ahmed Pinta, Mohammad Ali Sarkar, Shahidul Islam Bacchu, Rajhan Nabi Badsah, Abdur Razzak and Abdus Sabur Adil.

Members: Messrs Saifur Rahman, Kazi Manuruzzaman Manir, Ziaul Huq Milu, Pramod Mankin, Kazi Jahangir Amir, Zahiduzzaman Faruk, Prof. Majedul Islam, Prof. Kabir Uddin Ahmed Majunder, Dr Nuruzzaman, Gayeswar Chandra Roy, SM Shahjehan, Nurul Huda, Ferdous Wahid and Mohammad Mohsin.

CSO: 4220/7408

AWAMI LEAGUE PRESIDENT HASINA THANKS WELL-WISHERS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 20 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Mrs Hasina Sheikh Chairman of the Awami League Presidium in a message from the Indian Capital released through the party central office expressed her gratefulness to the wellwishers both in and outside the country who have congratulated her on her election as chief of the party.

According to a Press release issued under the signature of Syed Ahmed, Office Secretary of Awami League, Mrs. Hasina Sheikh said the sympathy and support of the followers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would inspire her to implement the ideals of the 'Second revolution'.

The Presidium and Secretariat of the party in a joint meeting on Tuesday with Mr. Phani Majumder in the chair decided to observe the Independence Day on March 26 and had drawn a three-day programme.

The meeting protested the declaration of the Independence Day as Independence and National Day. The three-day programme includes public meeting at Baitul Mukarram and procession on March 24, placing of floral wreaths at the National Mousoleum at 12 01 a.m. on the night of March 25, hoisting of national and party flags at the party central office at 6 a.m. on March 26 and seminar at 4 p.m. at Hotel Eden.

Mr. Abdur Razzak, General Secretary of the party in a statement urged the Government to release from jail all freedom fighters and political workers on the occasion of the Independence Day.

CSO: 4220/7410

INDIAN COMMUNIST SEES PLOT IN AWAMI LEAGUE VISIT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] The CPI(M) leader Mr. Joy Tirmoy Basu MP from West Bengal recently gave notice in the Indian Lok Sabha demanding a fullfledged debate on the recent visit of the top Awami League (Hasina) leaders to New Delhi and their secret meetings with the leaders of Congress (I).

In his notice Mr. Basu expressed apprehension that there was a conspiracy between the Indira government with the Soviet Union against the present government of Bangladesh.

According to a report received in Dacca Mr. Basu was very critical of the recent visits to New Delhi by the Awami League (Hasina) leaders and their undisclosed meetings with Congress (I) leaders particularly with Mrs Indira Gandhi and Union Minister Mr Pranab Mukherjee.

He was particularly critical for extending free accommodation and food to the Awami League (Hasina) leaders who lived in the "Steel Rest House" which is known as the house of RAW the secret intelligence service of the Indian government.

According to Mr Basu the newly elected President of Awami League Mrs Hasina Wazed now living in New Delhi on political asylum has been pushed forward to demand the trial of the killers during the 1975 political changes in Bangladesh as a "preliminary step of the Awami League (Hasina) against the present government."

The Speaker however rejected the notice for a full debate on the issue in the Lok Sabha.

CSO: 4220/7403

AWAMI LEAGUE GROUPS CELEBRATE MUJIB'S BIRTHDAY

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 18 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh Awami League (Hasina), Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan) and their allied organisations observed the 61st birth anniversary of late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Tuesday.

The functions included hoisting of national and party flags children rally, discussion meetings, Milad Mehfil and cultural shows.

Adressing a discussion meeting at the Ramna Green, leaders of the Awami League (Hasina) reiterated their determination to fight for the establishment of BKSALism with a view to introducing "a new economic order, a new administrative system and a new democracy--democracy of the oppressed--culminating in socialism."

Presided over by Mr M. Korban Ali, a member of the party Presidium, the meeting was addressed by Dr. Kamal Hussain and Mr Abdul Momin Talukder, Members of party Presidium, General Secretary Abdur Razzak, chief of the city AL (Hasina) Md. Hanif, Prof. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, a professor of Dacca University and Mr Moni Singh, chief of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Mr. Kamal Hussain said that some interested quarters had branded the Awami League as pro-Indian during its rule between 1972 and 1975. Such allegations were still being made although these had no basis, he said.

He said that the Awami League always held high the country's sovereignty and refused to accept foreign aid with strings. He accused the present government of undermining country's independence and sovereignty by accepting foreign assistance conditionally.

He claimed that Sheikh Mujib had laid the foundation of regional collaboration which was being advocated now.

Mr Abdul Momin Talukder said that the people shed tears silently when 'Bangabandhu' was killed on August 15, 1975 and nobody could protest the incident publicly. Time had come to protest the killing, he said.

He said that the party could show due respect to the leader only through implementation o. the BKSALism.

Mr Abdul Razzak said that some quarters had been trying to undermine the role of Sheikh Mujib in the language movement. He claimed that Sheikh Mujib chalked out the blue print of the language movement while he was in jail. He said that Sheikh Mujib made the informal declaration of independence on March 7 at the Race Course while the formal declaration was made by him to this end of March 26, 1971.

The AL General Secretary said, "we could not do anything when 'Bangabandhu' was killed. Now we are to take oath to take revenge of the killing."

Mr Abdur Razzak said that the struggle to introduce BKSALism would continue. The philosophy of Sheikh Mujib would be materialised only after the implementation of BKSALism in the country, he said.

Prof. Abdul Matin Chowdhury described March 17 as the holiest day for the nation and asked the Awami League to make it a public holiday when it returned to power. He said, "March 7 is important, March 26 is important, December 16 is also important. But March 17 is the brick-red day for the nation because it is the birthday of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

The Bose Professor bitterly criticised the Awami League leaders for their failure to take any action after the killing of Sheikh Mujib. "Where were you at that time? Where was your party intelligence? You did nothing except meeting 'Bangabandhu' thrice a day and wasting his time," he said.

Asking the Awami League to take revenge of the killing of Sheikh Mujib, the Prof. Chowdhury said, "the killer has now grown a beard. He is telling that he restored democracy. Beard is no index of political honesty. Mir Zafar had beard."

Asking the Awami League leaders to rise above greed, Prof. Chowdhury said, "it does not remain a secret when you speak against the government in the morning at Baitul Mukarram and visit Bangabhaban at night."

Mr Moni Singh said that Sheikh Mujib was killed by the agents of reactionery [as published] imperialist forces.

He said that he had warned Sheikh Mujib several times against mixing with the people so freely. He said that Sheikh Mujib did not take necessary precaution for his safety.

The meeting began at 4-45 p.m. Mr Abdul Malek Ukil arrived at the meeting at 7-15 p.m.

AL (Mizan)

Bangladesh Awami League (Mizan) organised a discussion meeting on the occasion which was presided over by Mr Muzaffar Hossain Paltu and addressed by Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Mr Shamsul Huq Mr Abdur Rauf, Mr M A Rashid and Mr Monir Hossain among others.

Criticising the Awami League (Hasina) for advocating BKSALism, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said, "those who had defined a temporary step as an ideal were only maligning the long standing democratic and nationalist image of Sheikh Mujib for their personal gains."

CSO: 4220/7403

PRC VISITOR PRAISES ACHIEVEMENTS IN BIRTH CONTROL

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Mar 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] A ranking Chinese Government official Monday said substantial achievement has been made by Bangladesh in the field of population control and family planning, reports BSS.

Mr. Ye Yung ge, a divisional head in the Ministry of Economic Relations with foreign countries in an interview with BSS said Bangladesh Government attaches great importance to population control and family planning, adding 'much efforts are needed to achieve still better results'.

Mr. Ye and Mr. Tao Wen long, another official of the ministry were in Dacca on a study tour to familiarize themselves with the population programme undertaken by the Government and the UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities). The tour sponsored by UNFPA, took the Chinese officials to several population programme areas. They had meetings with senior Government officials and UN agencies in Bangladesh.

Describing their six-day visit as 'successful and satisfactory' Mr. Ye said they had 'learned a lot from your experience'. He said the tour had enabled the team to have a 'complete idea of the family planning programme in Bangladesh'. Replying to a question, Mr. Ye said a lot of similarities existed between China and Bangladesh especially in the field of population activities. He, however, said that 'while in Bangladesh the slogan is two children were enough, in China one child family is encouraged.'

CSO: 4220/7405

GOVERNMENT PROMOTION OF EXPORTS DESCRIBED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Mar 81 p 5

[Article by Arham Masudul Huq]

[Text] It needs no emphasis that to accelerate the pace of economic growth of a third world country like Bangladesh earning of foreign exchange is a vital necessity. However, despite increasing efforts to boost export trade since independence the import bill continues to consume all our earnings which to a large extent accounts for slow economic growth of the country. The position of our export and import trade will be apparent from the following figures.

Period	Exports	Imports	GDP	Export as % of Import	Export as % of GDP
1972-73	285.60	773.40	4511.20	36.74	6.33
1973-74	289.33	732.00	7108.60	40.76	4.20
1974-75	313.58	1084.23	12594.10	28.92	2.49
1975-76	555.17	1470.32	10745.80	37.76	5.17
1976-77	667.01	1399.29	10536.10	47.67	6.33
1977-78	717.82	1821.63	13029.00	39.41	5.50
1978-79	963.17	2172.66	14477.40	44.33	6.65
1979-80	1018.72	2707.50	16333.60	37.63	6.24

(Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)

From the above figures it is evident that the export earnings have increased from Tk. 285.60 crore in 1972-73 to Tk. 1,018.72 crore in 1979-80. The trend of increase is satisfactory. Despite continued inflation in international markets which affected even the industrially developed countries our export earnings recorded a sizeable increase. But is is a misfortune for us that the major share of our exportable items in international trade is composed of primary products, whereas our major imports are industrial products, consumer goods and machinery. This is why we are getting comparatively low prices for our commodities and paying more for our imports.

We have observed that the government is seriously trying to balance import bills with export earnings so that foreign exchange may be available for financing the development projects as far as possible. With this end in view maximum help is being extended to the exporters for boosting export trade.

The following exportable products are now allowed by the government: a) Jute and other fibres; b) Food and live animals; c) Spices; d) Canned/preserved fruits; e) Beverage and tobacco; f) Crude materials; g) Other primary products; h) Jute goods; i) Paper Board and allied products; j) Leather; k) Leather products; l) Handicrafts and novelties; m) Other manufactures.

Export Incentives

The significance of export incentives for increasing the country's earnings abroad cannot be over-emphasised. These constitute one of the policy tools of the government for the purpose of attracting investment in export-oriented industries and for stimulating better export performance.

In promoting the export trade of the country the nationalised commercial banks are playing a very important role. The NCBs had advanced against exportable items to the tune of Tk. 254.00 crores up to June 1975 and Tk. 371.00 crores by June 1978. By the end of June 1979 the outstanding level of advances against export commodities stood at Tk. 424.00 crores which increased further to Tk. 474.00 crores by June 1980. Hence we observe that during the period 1975-80 bank finance to export sector rose by 87%.

The main export financing facilities are: a) Organisational set up; b) Credit up to 90% of L/C; c) Lower Interest Rate; d) Credit Target; e) Credit to Private Sector for Jute Exports; f) Block Credit; g) Foreign Exchange Facility for Business Tour; h) Ceiling in Bank Margin; i) Settlement of Bank's Claims; j) Forward Cover Facility against Exports; k) Finance to Export-oriented Industries; l) Export Credit Guarantee Scheme.

It may be noted that the government is constantly reviewing these incentives some of which are replaced by new ones for better results.

It we could diversify the range of our export products we might achieve optimum results. We have to make some sacrifices, otherwise our export performance can never be improved in certain areas.

With a view to boosting export trade, entrepreneurship development is to be encouraged and proper training for the purpose should be introduced. These new entrepreneurs should be provided with all the necessary credit facilities to enable them to maximise their efforts to meet our import bills. It is needless to repeat that availability of credit at the right time and in adequate quantity is essential for exporters to develop and expand their foreign trade.

CSO: 4220/7401

GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE JUTE EXPORT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Narsingdi, Mar. 20:--Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed today said the Government will give more emphasis on export of manufactured jute goods gradually lessening the export of raw jute, reports ENA.

Speaking at the inaugural function of Shamsher Jute Mills a private sector enterprise at Char Shujapur, the Deputy Prime Minister said a package of programmes has been undertaken to achieve that end.

He said this includes setting up a number of jute based industries expansion of jute pulp industries for manufacturing paper etc.

The Deputy Prime Minister said to encourage industrialisation Government is extending all sorts of facilities to the private sector. He said the amount of credit facilities extended to the private sector was Tk 25 crore in the fiscal year 1975-76, whereas the amount rose to Tk 350 crore in the 1979-80 fiscal year. The amount will be much more higher this year he added.

Speaking on the occasion Jute Minister Habibullah Khan said jute is facing stiff competition from synthetics in the international market. As foreign countries are more interested in buying yarn than raw jute now-a-days we shall have to produce quality jute goods for capturing world market, he added.

He said like many foreign countries of the west we shall have to run three shifts a day in mills and factories to boost production and reduce production cost. The Minister reaffirmed the Government's determination to make diverse use of jute.

Food Minister Abdul Momen Khan and Managing Director of the mill Haji Mohammad Ali also spoke on the occasion. Mr. Ahmedul Kabir MP Editor of the Sangbad was also present.

CSO: 4220/7412

PRESIDENT VISITS MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Dalia (Rangpur) Mar. 16:--President Ziaur Rahman today visited the Teesta and Brahmaputra Barrage projects--the country's two major multipurpose irrigation projects aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in national economy, reports BSS.

At both these places the President held discussions with the concerned Minister and the officials and saw for himself the progress of work.

He directed the officials to expedite the preliminary work so that the actual construction of the projects could be undertaken within the shortest possible time.

The Teesta project, being constructed at an estimated cost of about Taka 260 crore with a foreign exchange component Taka 32 crore is expected to irrigate over 1.34 million acres of land in Dinajpur, Rangpur and Bogra districts.

On completion of the barrage, winter cropping, which is now limited to only 15 per cent of the cultivable land will be extended to a vast area of 19 lakh acres of land in these three districts.

It will have 42 barrage bays and eight under sluice bays with a road over each of the bays.

To facilitate supply of irrigation water to the field there will be a 26-mile long main canal, 160 miles of secondary canals and 600 miles of tertiary canals.

Besides, about 1,400 miles of existing drainage channels will be improved and new channels dug to improve the drainage system.

The Brahmaputra barrage project, whose feasibility study has now been taken in hand aims at providing water for gravity irrigation and generating hydro electricity.

The secondary purpose of the project is to provide measures for flood control and drainage and facilities for navigation, transportation, pisciculture and recreation.

Estimated to cost Taka 3,500 crore the barrage is located on the Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers about five miles upstream of the present Bahadurabad Ghat.

The project is expected to benefit an area of over 40 lakh acres of land in the districts of Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Rajshahi Mymensingh Sylhet and Dacca.

A minimum of four lakh kilowatts of continuous power will be generated round the year.

The project having a total length of 19,000 feet, will incoporate [as published] spilway structure which will flow 35 lakh crt of water per second.

Establishment Minister Mr. Majedul Huq, State Minister for Power, Water Resources and Flood Control Mr L. K. Siddiqui and Chairman of the Water Development Board accompanied the President during the visits.

CSO: 4220/7402

FOOD MINISTER REPORTS RECORD GRAIN PROCUREMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 22 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] Daukandi (Comilla), March 21: Food Minister Mr Abdul Momen Khan on Thursday said here that the Government had made a record procurement of eight lake tons of foodgrains since July last year under the internal procurement programme, reports BSS. [as published]

He stated this while formally inaugurating the internal wheat procurement drive for the current season.

He stated this while formally inaugurating the internal wheat procurement drive for the current season. [as published] Under the drive two and a half lakh tons of wheat would be procured from the internal markets the Minister added.

Explaining the present food situation in the country, the Minister said no foodgrains have been imported this year on cash basis.

He said at present the country had a stock of nearly 14 lakh tons of foodgrains and it was expected to rise to 18 lakh tons at the close of the year.

Storage Capacity

Mr Khan said construction of [850 or 350] food godowns in different parts of the country's storage capacity would be raised to 17 lakh tons from the existing capacity of 12 lakh tons.

The Minister asked the concerned officials to work honestly and sincerely to make the procurement drive a success. He called upon the growers to sell good quality wheat to the Government for ensuring proper storage.

Mr A. K. M. Abu Zahid, District Coordinator also spoke on the occasion.

CSO: 4220/7414

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN HIGH-YIELD PADDY SEEDS REACHED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Mar 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The country has achieved self-sufficiency in the production of high yielding variety of paddy seeds which even a few years back cost it a sizeable amount of foreign exchange for importation.

The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) has been producing HYV cereal seeds in its seed multiplication farms and contract growers zones.

The Corporation has 21 seeds multiplication farms of which two SM farms are responsible for production of foundation seeds, which are then sent to various SM farms for producing certified seeds. In addition, foundation seeds are also utilised by selected contract growers in 13 contract growers zones for the production of certified seeds under supervision of BADC.

BADC farms are being fully developed and their production capabilities are being enhanced. New processing facilities are being installed in the SM farms in order to ensure expanded supply of certified seeds to the farmers.

For instance, the area and the yield of the 500-acre seed multiplication farm at Madhupur which was 381 acres and 6,680 maunds in 1969-70 increased to 660 acres and 23,000 maunds respectively.

The Madhupur farm which has modern farm equipment including rotavator, seed-driller, pre-cleaner, dehumidifier and combined harvester, besides its own production of seeds also collects seeds produced by the contact growers.

The BADC, in addition of its efforts to tone up the existing farms, will establish two new SM farms--one at Debiganj at Rangpur and another at Pirojpur, Barisal during the Second Five-Year Plan period.

The BADC farms produced 1 lakh 68 thousand maunds of paddy and 14,000 maunds of wheat seeds in 1973-74. As the farmers throughout the country developed the habit of preserving their own seeds, the demand for BADC farm seeds has reduced considerably. But, the BADC farms have taken up a comprehensive programme to boost production of wheat seeds of varieties including Sonalika, Pavon and Balaka.

During 1980-81, there is a programme for distribution of 109,800 maunds of paddy seeds and 381,750 maunds of wheat seeds were distributed to the farmers during current year. The BADC has a programme to locally produce 184,821 maunds of improved paddy seeds and 392,000 maunds of wheat seeds for distribution among the farmers during the next year.

Besides, BADC has also taken up this year a programme for local production of pulses, vegetables and oilseeds. The objective is to produce improved seeds with a view to boosting production in these sectors.

The BADC plans to produce 52620 tons of certified seeds through contract growers for distribution among the farmers during the country's Second Five Year Plan period. The plan envisages bringing 56,000 to 60,000 acres under certified seed production programme through the expansion of the contract growers zones from 13 to 20 by 1984-85.

In addition to the contribution to the production of High Yielding Variety of seeds locally, the contract growers scheme has opened up new opportunities for the farmers in the scheme areas. The scheme has enabled the farmers to earn an extra amount for their produce and at the same time to derive maximum benefit out of their land.

A case in point is Tengri block in Tangail district, the lands here used to remain fallow during the lean period. In 1976-77, a supervisor of BADC seed production programme convinced the farmers in Tengri to grow wheat seeds in only 32 acres of land under the contract growers zone scheme. The result was encouraging. The farmers recived [as published] a premiun price of laka 40 to 53 per maund over the market price of wheat. The contract growers' wheat procured by the nearby SM farm at Madhupur. [as published]

During the current wheat season, a total of 203 acres of land is under the Tengri block and the number of contract growers has increased to 87 from 27 during the first year of block.

Samed Ali, the manager of the block told the TIMES that he had to face a number of hurdles during the first stage of the block, and now the situation is quite reverse.

He said that more farmers were willing to join in the scheme. He, however, said that they had experienced some difficulties this year due to the increase in the price of fuel and fertilizer costs.

CSO: 4220/7408

EXCERPTS OF FINANCE MINISTER'S ESCAP SPEECH

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17, 18 Mar 81

[17 Mar 81 p 5]

[Text] The ESCAP Secretariat deserves appreciation for presenting an excellent document on the recent economic developments in the ESCAP region. The scenario is a mixed one except the common persistent phenomenon of price inflation. The ESCAP document on the short-term economic policy issues on the energy situation in our region is both useful and timely and the Secretariat under the able guidance of Mr. Maramis deserves to be congratulated.

This session should prove very fruitful since it is taking place after the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade remain largely unrealised. The present extremely difficult global economic environment has aggravated the problems facing the developing countries and particularly the least developed onces. The stark reality confronting mankind today is that close to 850 million people in the developing world are living at the margin of existence enduring hunger and sickness, devoid of shelter and without employment. The current difficulties should not, however, deter the world community from the imperative of restructuring international economic relations. The challenge of development calls for a new era of effective and meaningful national and regional co-operation for development responsive to the needs and problems of the developing countries. It is essential to mobilise public opinion in all countries particularly the developed countries in order to obtain their full commitment to the goals and objectives and the implementation of the present strategy. Only bold initiatives and politicial will on the part of the developed countries and also the developing countries in a position to do so, can ensure the fulfilment of the responsibility of the international community towards the socio-economic progress of the developing countries in general and the LDCs in particular.

Bangladesh has had a history of planning for economic development over two decades before it became a sovereign state in December 1971. But the overall growth trend of this poor, un-diversified agricultural economy, over the last two decades barely exceeds its population growth rate. Most of the macro-economic indicators confirm extreme poverty conditions in the country. Bangladesh is the 8th most populous country in the world with estimated population of 90 million squeezed in an area of 56,000 sq. miles. The population is

increasing at an estimated rate of 2.6% per annum. 80% of the people are estimated to live in conditions below poverty line. Our per capita income of only around US$100 in 1979-80 is significantly lower that that of some neighbouring countries. Our exports which constituted mainly of agricultural raw materials pay for only about one-third of our imports.

I need hardly stress that the economy of Bangladesh faces a formidable challenge. 1979-80 was a very difficult year. Deterioration in terms of trade combined with higher prices of oil and capital goods widened the already intolerable payment deficit. The spillover effect of the severe drought in 1978-79 also adversely contributed to the balance of payments deficit on current account which approached an astronomincal figure of 209% of the country's export earnings. The encouraging development, however was the step towards controlling climatic vagaries by a determined bid to switch to more irrigation based agriculture. A country-wide canal digging programme was launched on a voluntary basis to conserve water and provide for lift irrigation in the dry season. Switch to less water intensive crop, viz. wheat, was another salutary development.

The decade of the eighties has begun propitiously. Despite a precarious balance of payments position the economy is likely to register an over-all growth rate of 7.2% in 1980-81. This is being achieved essentially by increasing food production by about 15%. Even with sluggish aid flow imports of raw materials, agricultural inputs and industrial spares are being maintained to utilise and also to increase the productive capacity of the economy. This reflects firm national commitment to the launching of a substantial development programme in the eighties.

The economic and social objectives of development efforts in this decade have been formulated keeping in perspective the problem of overwhelming poverty and unemployment illiteracy and malnutrition of the masses living mostly in the rural areas. The rapid increase of population has further accentuated these formidable problems. These desperate conditions demand much to be achieved and achieved quickly. The expectations of the people are also high. But only with substantial support from the international community will it be possible to give a big push towards the fulfilment of the economic and social objectives. The main objectives of the development effort for the decade are as follows: (i) to lift bulk of the population above the poverty line by ensuring adequate provision of the basic needs; (ii) to increase per capita real income of the disadvantaged groups; (iii) to eliminate illiteracy and make a significant progress towards comprehensive development of human resources; (iv) to reduce the rate of population growth; (v) to attain higher degree of self-reliance; (vi) to move towards more equitable distribution of income resources and opportunities; (vii) to expand and diversify exports; (vii) to expand opportunities for gainful employment beyond the growth of labour force; and (ix) to accelerate the pace of economic development.

In this context the main emphasis of the development efforts of the 1980s is on the significant reduction of poverty and creation of such conditions as would help eliminate poverty by the turn of the century with a view to attaining appreciable improvement in the quality of life of the common man. A sustained growth of more than seven per cent over the decade is necessary if Bangladesh has to

lift the bulk of its population above the poverty line. I need hardly emphasise that a development effort on this scale would require massive doze [as published] of investment. And, yet it is obvious that Bangladesh with all its best internal efforts will not be able to marshall adequate resources to achieve and sustain the expected level of investment. Therefore, we have a compelling need to look to our more fortunate friends in industrialized and oil-rich world to support us in our struggle for a better future.

[18 Mar 81 pp 5, 6]

[Text] ODA as a percentage of GNP has actually been declining in the case of some of the most advanced countries. This clearly reflects the unfortunate attitude of the developed countries not to recognise the hard reality of interdependent and interlinked character of international economic monetary and trade issues. The aid performance of OPEC, Scandinavian countries and Netherlands nevertheless is laudable. If the growth target of 7% set by the IDS for the decade of 80s is to be met, urgent and concrete steps will have to be taken by the developed countries to reach the level of 0.7% of GNP as ODA to the developing world. Our own experience could usefully be highlighted to establish the urgency of increasing aid flow. In 1980-81 the thin aid pipeline especially of commodity which is needed most by a least developed country and sluggish commitment compelled us to seek costly support from IMF and other commercial sources. These steps, which maintained the momentum of growth for the time being, bode ill for the future of the economy by increasing its debt servicing liability. Thus a country with demonstrated ability to tackle the problems of production and poverty is left frustrated by declining levels of aid flow. This situation must be rectified immediately. Else, the peril of death disease and chaos in large tracts of the world would persist from which even the affluent countries are unlikely to escape in the long run.

The UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) is scheduled to be held in September, 1981 in Paris. It is expected to agree on detailed proposals regarding programme of action for the 1980's including modalities for coordination at the global and country level. Since ESCAP region contains the overwhelming number of people living on the precipice of poverty we would expect ESCAP to give full support to the UN Conference on LDCs. It should urge the donor countries and agencies to make pledges of assistance in the UN Conference for the implementation of the substantial programme of action prepared by LDCs for the decade of 1980s. We would urge the international community to take action to double and quadruple resource flow to least developed countries by 1985 and 1990 respectively.

We commend the ESCAP Secretariat for preparing a paper on the energy situation in the ESCAP region. The report is quite illuminating and will provide background information for deliberation during this session on the vital issue of energy which is the main theme of this Commission. Energy today is the burning issue for all non-oil producing developing countries, but for the least developed ones it creates havoc in their Balance of payments Account. There must be accommodation--indeed there is no alternative--between oil producing and consuming countries. We hope the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of energy to be held in Nairobi in August, 1981, will come to grips as to how to develop and use new and renewable sources of energy to meet future energy requirements.

Bangladesh has to import practically all her requirements of petroleum, and petroleum products. Import of crude and petroleum products costs over 60 per cent of its export earnings. Governments has therefore given high priority to the substitution of oil and oil products by its natural gas whenever such options are available. [as published] It is our expectation that this very imporant [as published] session of ESCAP while deliberating on regional co-operation in the field of energy will also deliberate on global energy policy. A predominant element of such a policy would be to evolve a mechanism to finance energy imports of the developing countries, especially of the least developed, amongst them.

There are no conclusive developments yet in respect of Global Round of Negotiations (GRN). Countries of ASIA and Pacific Region must express grave concern at the continued stalemate on launching of the global round of negotiations. The urgency of starting negotiations without any further delay can hardly be overemphasised. I appeal to those countries which had reservations on GRN during the 11th special session as well as 35th Regular Session of UNGA to adopt this time, a more flexible and realistic attitude in the matter.

Turning to the problem of International trade we are concerned by the trend of increasing protectionism in the developed countries. The new protectionism is directed largely against labour-intensive products of developing countries. The whole process of economic development is being severely affected by restricted access for many first stage manufactured products. We feel, here is a pressing need for a comprehensive examination of the whole problem and negotiation for liberal access of the products of the developing countries into the markets of developed countries. North-South Trade is a two-way traffic. How can South pay for its imports from the North, if the North bolts its doors against exports from the South. We are hopeful that the developed countries will recognise the mutuality of benefit inherent in the increased flow of assistance to, and a greater volume of trade with the developing countries. Only through a well-conceived and rational framework for enlarged trade cooperation can the North hope to overcome its crisis of recurrent recessions. South must be put in a liquidity position to pay for its imports from the North.

ECDC is a key element in a collective self-reliance strategy. Bangladesh has been an active supporter of the ECDC and TCDC concepts and entered into economic and technical cooperation agreements with a number of developing countries. In conformity with our commitment we shall continue to support all reasonable steps to take this concept a living reality. [as published]

Hunger and malnutrition is nowhere so gigantic a problem as in our region. And this is so in spite of our vast scope for increasing food production. It has been demonstrated in my country that production can increase by 15% in a single year without bringing additional land under cultivation. The problem of Food Security is a matter of grave concern to us. Only a month back at Dacca Commonwealth Ministers of Food, Agriculture and Rural Development recognised the need for increasing food production and establishing immediately a system of world food security. The basic elements of a food security system are very clear and well identified. The potentialities of food deficit countries must be harnessed to its maximum. Investment in food production must be rapidly expanded with added flow of external assistance for agriculture and rural development.

Strategy for increased production should comprise irrigation, agricultural research, extension work, use of fertilizer and other modern inputs better storage of grains and development of fisheries. An international arrangement for stocking of grains may be established with an emergency reserve deployed regionally. Food aid, in the meantime should be increased and linked to promotion of agricultural production and employment of labour. Liberalisation of trade in food and other agricultural commodities may be undertaken to provide incentive to higher production. Finally to help a country in distress due to vagaries of nature, a food financing facility may be created possibly in the IMF. With these elements, an internationally coordinated food security scheme can be established fairly rapidly. In this context, I would like to urge the restructuring of the Asian Rice Trade Fund, which has so far remained moribund as a first step towards establishing a regional food security system. This will, of course, demand concerted action by food deficit, food exporting and food donating countries.

The Commission will, inter alia consider the report of the Committee on Shipping, Transport and Communications, Ports and Inland Waterways wing. The report noted a proposal for the establishment in Bangladesh of a "Regional Centre for the Development of Appropriate Technology for Inland Water Transport in the Developing Countries" and requested the Secretariat to undertake, as a matter of priority certain follow-up action which we hope will be taken speedily. I wish to inform the Commission that we have the necessary infrastructure and would be very happy to place them at the disposal of the regional member countries.

We are very happy to note that APDC has started functioning from 1st July 1980. We are grateful to the Government of Malaysia for hosting this Centre and supporting it on a very generous scale. We are also deeply appreciative of the role of UNDP in this regard. However, we view with some concern the critical financial position of this Centre right at its very beginning, as brought out in the Secretariat document. We are a severely under-developed country and cannot naturally expect to do much. All the same, it is my pleasure to reiterate the commitment of my Government to the principles and objectives of this Centre and our willingness to consider modest increase in our contribution. I hope this session of the Commission will be able to reach a consensus on the question of the draft charter. I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention the other institute--SIAP. We are particularly glad that the Government of Japan is doing everything possible to sustain this Institute which is doing excellent work for this region--certainly for my country. Again, it is my pleasure to inform the Commission that for the third phase of this Institute our contribution will be over 100 per cent of what we contributed for the second phase.

CSO: 4220/7404

CZECH-SUPPORTED INSULATOR PLANT TO OPEN IN JUNE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 19 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] The Taka 30 crore Bangladesh Insulator and Sanitary-ware Factory at Mirpur will go into commercial production on June 1.

President Ziaur Rahman is expected to formally inaugurate the factory, one of the major projects in the public sector implemented since independence of the country.

The factory, an enterprise of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation was originally scheduled to be completed by the first quarter of 1980. It was delayed and the new time schedule was fixed at the end of the year. It was again delayed.

Corporation sources told the TIMES that the physical work of the factory began in mid-1977. But, due to certain problems, mainly concerning the construction work, the work schedule could not be maintained.

Meanwhile, the cost of the project, particularly the construction materials, had increased substantially. The original cost of the project was Tk. 20.81 crore including Tk. 7.46 crore in foreign exchange. Due to price escalation, the cost had increased to Tk. 26 crore including Tk. 8 crore in foreign exchange.

The corporation sources said that final cost of the project had been estimated at around Tk. 30 crore. They, however, said that some additions had been made in the project which led to the further escalation in the cost.

The Czechoslovak Government provided the major portion of the foreign exchange component of the project in the form of machinery and expertise under a credit agreement.

When completed, the factory will produce different types of sanitaryware and insulator sufficient for meeting domestic requirement. Besides meeting the local requirement, the sanitaryware and insulator will be exported.

It is learnt that 70 per cent raw materials of the factory will come from local sources while the remaining 30 per cent will be imported.

The factory, being a labour-intensive one will provide employment to about 800 people including 700 labourers. Total annual sales of the factory, as per

estimate of 1977, is expected to be about Taka eight crore as against total annual cost of production of Taka about 7 crore.

The sources pointed out that the factory would manufacture quality products which might attract foreign buyers including those in Middle East, Nepal and Burma.

CSO: 4220/7406

PETROLEUM MINISTER REPORTS UNTAPPED RES[illegible]ES

Dacca THE BANGALDESH OBSERVER in Engli[illegible]0 Mar 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] Chittagong, March 19:--The Petr[illegible]eum and Mineral Resources Minister Mr. Akbar Hossain disclosed here today that Bangladesh has reserve of untapped natural resources valued at about Taka two lakh crore.

Addressing a Press conference at the Chittagong Circuit House this morning, the Minister said that the country needs about Taka 3,000 crore to explore the vast resources now lying in different forms.

Mr. Hossain said that the exploration of these resources would reap benefit and profit to the tune of Taka 1,500 crore per year. The present reserve of natural resources would meet the demand of energy of the country for next 2,500 years, he added.

Mr. Akbar Hossain said that Chittagong gas supply project would incur an expenditure of Taka 300 crore. However, the completion of this project will help save foreign exchange to the tune of Taka 150 crore a year.

The Minister also disclosed that Jamalpur mine field will go into production of limestone and cement within next five years.

Asked about the possibility of price hike of petroleum products, the Minister parried the question. But he said that the price of kerosene and diesel would be equalised.

Mr. Hossain told a questioner that the proposal of export of gas to India is now in cold storage.

Referring to stock position of raw material of Eastern Refinery of Chittagong, Mr. Akbar Hossain said the Eastern Refinery has already lined up with different Middle East countries to receive supply of 26 lakh tons of crude oil.

The Minister said that West Germany has provided Bangladesh with a grant of Taka 70 lakh for exploration of gas and oil.

Mr. Akbar Hossain stated that out of this total reserve resources, 1.75 trillion are gas and one billion tons are coal reserves. The proper exploration of

his resources [as published] would make possible to earn Taka 12,000 crore for the national exchequer per year, he added.

The Minister disclosed that the country has at present 12 gas fields. Out of these gas fields, drilling in three gas fields are continuing in full swing. [as published] They are at Feni, Begumganj and Beanibazar.

The Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister said that the drilling of Muladi Gas Field has been abandoned temporarily. The drilling of another gas field is likely to be abandoned soon, he added.

Mr. Hossain revealed that the Shell International would undertake extensive drilling in Chittagong Hill Tracts at a total cost of Taka 200 crores. This drilling work, he said, would be completed within next eight years.

About the supply of gas to Chittagong city, the Minister said Bakhrabad Gas Field would go into supply of gas to Chittagong city by 1982. The installation of pipe line for one hundred mile-long distance from Bakhrabad to Chittagong will start from October this year, he added.

CSO: 4220/7410

ADVANTAGES OF GAS SUPPLY TO WESTERN ZONE SEEN

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Mar 81 pp 5, 6

[Article by Dr. M. I. Ali]

[Text] Natural Gas was discovered as early as 1955 in Sylhet district and subsequently at Brahmanbaria and other places. By now there are 10 discoveries and proven gas reserves are about 10 trillion cubic feet. The distribution of natural gas is so far confined to the Eastern zone. Out of these discoveries only a few are being used for various purposes i.e. mainly for fertilizer production, power generation and to a smaller extent for other industrial purposes and as domestic fuel. The consumption of natural gas will be in the region of 36,000 million cubic feet per year. This includes production of fertilizer in the operating and under-construction fertilizer plants. Gas-based fertilizer plants are: (a) Natural Gas Fertilizer Factory, Fenchuganj Sylhet (b) Urea Fertilizer Factory Ghorasal Dacca (c) Ashuganj Fertilizer & Chemical Company Ashuganj Comilla (d) Polash Urea Fertilizer Factory Ghorasal, Dacca and (e) the proposed Chittagong Urea Project Chittagong. All these plants will have a combined 1.5 million tons. In addition one 500,000 Urea Plant at Chittagong is under negotiation.

As has been mentioned, natural gas is available only in the Eastern zone. There is, so far, no fertilizer plant in the western zone of the country. As such half the country's requirement of fertilizer for Western zone is supplied from the existing fertilizer factories and from imported stock. The present fertilizer demand in Western zone is approximately 600,000 tons. Actual supply is less. However, to distribute this fertilizer Government has to spend large amount of funds roughly Tk. 1,500 per ton. That means, in order to distribute 600,000 tons of fertilizer Government has to spend about Tk. 90 crores per year only for its transportation.

Such being the case it may be judicious to extend gas transmission facilities to the Western zone from the presently operating gas lines (Dacca-Manikganj) and to establish fertilizer factories either at Ishurdi or at Nagarbari area, so that the cost of fertilizer distribution in the Western zone would become insignificant and may not exceed Tk. 200 per ton on an average throughout the region. This fact alone might justify gas transmission to Western zone in the same way that the East-West Interconnector for power distribution has been justified.

The relative backwardness of the Western zone calls for a massive development programme. To initiate such a programme adequate infrastructure facilities

are the first prerequisite. Unless fuel, power irrigation facilities fertilizer and other inputs are available all-round development activities in industry, agriculture and other sectors will remain stunted. Piecemeal project activities face immense difficulties at every stage and the net result is a sad tale.

Fuel: Fuels of Western zone are mainly furnace oil, bagasse, jute sticks fire wood--mainly mango wood in North Bengal and Sundarban woods in Khulna region and agricultural wastes including cow-dung. These are discussed hereunder:

a) Furnace Oil: The consumption of furnace oil by large consumers of Khulna and Rajshahi Divisions is approximately 200,000 tons per year. This quantity is supplied from Eastern Rafinery, Ltd. Chittagong. [as published] To give a relief to the consumers Government is providing a subsidy to the extent of transportation cost from Khulna to the consumers station. Furnace oil is an exportable item and it can earn foreign exchange @US$ 214 per metric ton.

By .ranspossion [as published] of gas to the Western zone the above quantity of Furnace oil could be released for export and consumers could get relief of Tk. 2000 per ton of furnace oil consumed. The gas requirement for this would be in the order of 8,000 million cubic feet per year.

On account of Furnace oil consumption in Western zone Government is losing foreign exchange earning to the tune of over Tk. 650 million plus subsidy paid on transportation while the consumers' paying over Tk. 400 million which ultimately comes as a burden to common people. How government and the people can endure such loss and burden in perpetuity?

b) Diesel Oil: Power generation in the Western zone is also dependent on diesel oil. The cost of generating power by diesel oil is nearly 4 times that of power generation based on natural gas. The use of gas in the Western zone for power generation may offer a substantial benefit to national economy. This is not only in generation of power, the consumers will get power at a cheaper rate which will induce more electrification, boost industrialisation in the area. This would improve the living condition of the people. PDB savings would run to crores. On the other hand, diesel oil is a commodity of international market which would either save or earn foreign exchange. Finally, this would help power supply at a lower rate in the Eastern zone.

c) Bagasse: Bagasse is another important fuel less known to the common people. Production of bagasse and its consumption is mainly limited to sugar industry. The sugar industry consumes bagasse as its fuel. On the other hand bagasse is a valuable raw material for pulp and when converted into pulp and paper value added is significant. Bagasse can also be converted into an excellent bagasse board mulch which can fetch much higher value in foreign or domestic markets. Due to non-availability of alternative fuel in the sugar mills and to get rid of it bagasse is burnt as fuel.

In the meantime, the country has established paper mills based on bagasse in the Western zone. Sugar mills can supply about 50% of paper mills requirement as surplus bagasse while remaining 50% has to be purchased by replacing fuel i.e. furnace oil. As a result cost of paper thus produced goes up. If gas could have been supplied to at least 5 sugar mills in the region the nation could save

reasonable quantity of bagasse at a lower cost for paper making. Moreover, the cost of paper could come down to a good extent. This could boost country's educational programmes. This alone could reduce the price of paper by Tk. 1,000/ton i.e. Tk. 16 million per year. However, its added value is much more than the amount saved.

d) Jute Stick: Jute stick is another item which is usually burnt in the rural areas. This is a valuable raw material for producing pulp as well as for particle board. Both are commodities for international market as well as domestic. By supplying gas to Western zone a substantial quantity of this material could have been saved to earn more money in crores annually.

e) Fire Wood: The importance of fire wood is not only for fuel but also for plant life needed to maintain ecological balance. Mass deforestation may lead to a desert situation. Under current prices use of gas in place of fire wood makes a saving of about Tk. 300 ton of fire wood. This fire wood is coming from most of the fruit trees by which population is deprived of fruits having sufficient food and nutritive value required for good health.

As the Ganges water supply is reduced due to Farakka Barrage mass plantation is now a greater necessity to ensure adequate rainfall in the Western zone while reverse action is rampant all due to acute fuel crisis.

f) Cow Dung: Cowdung is an age old manure for the rural agriculture as well as fuel. By giving gas to larger areas some quantity of cow-dung could be saved for manure to replace costly chemical fertilizer.

Urea Fertilizer Plant: Western zone of Bangladesh requires about 600,000 tons of fertilizer which permits a fair-sized unit for production. If this quantity of fertilizer was produced in the Western zone there could have been a saving of Tk. 90 crores per year merely on account of reduced transportation cost of fertilizer from Eastern zone. The cumulative carrying cost of fertilizer for several years would pay for the cost of laying a gas transmission line up to the Western zone. In this way a perpetual transportation cost would be eliminated while pipe line cost is amortized. Gas required for a fertilizer factory of 500,000 t/y would be approximately 18,000 million cubic feet per year. This fertilizer factory alone can justify gas transmission to the Western zone.

On the other hand distribution of fertilizer throughout Western zone can be achieved through direct booking from the factory and by that heavy overhead expenses for distribution by BADC may be reduced. To move one step further it may be possible that the farmers co-operative units at different areas would get this fertilizer distributed in their own areas through co-peratives. [as published] The factory can send fertilizer to different co-operative units. This would have a far reaching effect in that the co-operatives will be developed and the farmers can become members of large co-operatives buying certain equity in the fertilizer factory. This will eliminate chances of maldistribution of fertiliser and the scope for black marketing would be reduced to a great extent.

In view of the situation thus envisaged it appears prudent to have gas transmission to Western zone and establish one fertilizer plant at Ishurdi (or Nagarbari area) followed by two smaller units one in the south and the other in

the north on a priority basis. International finance may come up if situation permits. Establishment of Western zone Plant ensures supply of fertilizer to Western zone and at the same time it keeps the door open for export as well.

It may be suggested that Government should consider export of fertilizer from NGFF Fenchuganj and UFF, Ghorasal to earn higher margin of foreign exchange per ton of fertilizer due to its lower cost of production than anticipated higher cost of production in the under-construction fertilizer factories.

Methanol Plant: Natural gas is raw material for production of Methanol. In many countries Methanol is blended with Gasoline for use as motor fuel. Methanol can also be blended with Kerosene for general use. Recently Methanol has been converted into Gasoline and its commercial production ensuing shortly. Bangladesh has relatively cheap natural gas. Methanol production could be profitable (in the context of Bangladesh) for blending it with Kerosene as an import substitute and producing Gasoline for domestic consumption as well as export, production of Formaldehyde for resin, MTBE (Methyl tartiary buty ether) as an antiknok agent (a substitute for pollutant lead additives), Acetic acid, substrate for SCP (single cell protein)--poultry and cattle feed. Methanol has market abroad and can be exported. It may be feasible to establish a plant of 300,00 [as published] tons per year capacity. This can be established in the Western zone to improve the economic viability of gas transmission there. The distribution of this quantity of Methanol could be as follows:--100,000 tons for blending with Kerosene--150,000 tons for production of Gasoline and--50,000 tons for manufacture of Formaldehyde and other industrial products and as solvent.

The gas requirement would be about 15,000 million cubic feet per year for this plant. Under the circumstances it is advisable to establish a Methanol plant in the Western zone combined with an Ammonia Plant for better economy.

Gas Supply to North Bengal Paper Mills: Furnace oil replacement by natural gas supply may lead to reduction of paper cost by Tk. 2000 per ton and this would improve mills' economy as well as the country's foreign exchange earning position if e..ported.

Gas Supply to Sugar Mills has been discussed under bagasse. Immediate benefit will be the lowering the paper price while it will open a new line of industry-Bagasse Board. Financial benefit may be significant.

There are constraints in realising this kind of project. The major one being the requirement of large amount of fund. The chemical complex envisaged may cost over billion dollars in phases but in the context of our national economy this will be worthwhile. For Urea and Methanol plants it is likely that foreign invstors [as published] would be available if they are ensured of marketing programme and the price of gas fixed at an agreeable level along with other industrial incentives which can be negotiated only after having the project prepared in details.

It may not be out of place to mention here that the gas transmission to Western zone should be a part of first revolution. To fight against hunger through "Grow Food campaign and digging countrywide irrigation cannal, [as published] gas transmission to Western zone is a vital and first step to provide: 1) Fertilizer for Agriculture, 2) Power for irrigation pumps, 3) Power for cottage industries & homes, 4) Fuel for industries and homes 5) Fuel to save plantations for ecological balance. And without gas transmission the cannal [as published] digging programme and agricultural revolution will remain incomplete.

CSO: 4220/7396

BRIEFS

PRESS INSTITUTE DIRECTOR--Mr. A. B. M. Musa, one of the senior-journalists of the country has been appointed Director-General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh reports ENA. Mr. A. B. M. Musa was associated with THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER, now THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, for about 20 years. As News Editor of the paper, he earned a great reputation at home and abroad. Mr. Musa was the first Managing Director of the Bangladesh Television and Editor of the now defunct MORNING NEWS. He was also Advisory Editor of the weekly NEW NATION. Mr. Musa has also been correspondent of the SUNDAY TIMES, the TIMES OF LONDON and the BBC for many years. Untill [as published] recently, Mr. Musa worked in the United Nations as the Regional Information Officer of the United Nations Environment Programme in Bangkok. Mr. Musa has contribution towards the development of the Press Institute. He was an honorary instructor at the Institute at the time of its inception. [Excerpt] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 81 p 1]

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER--Mr. Abdul Toab Khan, the Acting Director-General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh, has been oppointed [as published] Principal Information Officer, reports ENA. A former Editor of the DAINIK BANGLA, Mr. Toab Khan has been associated with the media and allied field for 27 years. He joined the daily SANGBAD in 1955. For some time he worked in the daily ITTEHAD. Then he joined the then DAINIK PAKISTAN in 1964 as Chief Sub-Editor and the next year became the News Editor of the paper. Mr. Toab Khan became Public Relations Officer to the Prime Minister in 1973. He later became Press Secretary to the Prime Minister and remained in that post till 1975. Mr. Toab Khan joined the Press Institute of Bangladesh in 1976. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 81 p 1]

CHITTAGONG STUDENTS UNION--Chittagong, Mar. 20:--Mr Jashimuddin Sarkar and Mr. Abul Gaffar of Islami Chhatra Shibir today have been declared elected Vice-President and General Secretary respectively of Chittagong University Central Students Union for the year 1980-81. The election of CUCSU and six hall unions was held peacefully on Thursday. The counting of ballot papers was completed at midnight. Of the 27 posts of CUSCU, 25 posts are captured by Islami Chhatra Shibir and two posts by Chhatra League (Kader-Chunnu). The Chhatra Shibir are also majority in the hall unions. [Excerpt] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 81 p 12]

ISLAMIC REINSURANCE CORPORATION--The Islamic Economic Chamber (earlier known as Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange) in its second general assembly meeting held last month in Kuwait accepted a proposal to establish an 'Islamic Re-insurance Corporation' for cooperation in the field of re-insurance among the Muslim countries. The first meeting of experts on re-insurance from different Muslim countries will be held in Dacca in September. The proposal to set up 'Islamic Re-insurance Corporation' was moved by the Bangladesh delegation. Mr M. A. Wahab who was elected to the office of the Vice-President of the Islamic Economic Chamber for South Asian zone for the second time led the six-member Bangladesh delegation to the Kuwait meeting. The fourth meeting of the general assembly of the Islamic Economic Chamber will be held in Dacca in December next year. On way back home after attending the Kuwait meeting the Bangladesh delegation visited Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 81 p 1]

GRAM SARKAR COMMITTEE--Local Government Minister Abdul Halim Chowdhury on Friday announced a 25 member national committee on drafting rules of Swanirvar Gram Sarkar, reports ENA. He made this announcement at the special conference of Gram Sarkar Prodhans and its lady members which concluded at Shilpakala Academy in Dacca. Mr. Abdul Awal Khan Majlis, a Gram Sarkar Prodhan of Sathurai under Manikganj has been nominated Chairman of the committee. The members of the committee include the Minister himself, Deputy Minister for Local Government a Divisional Commissioner and some Gram Sarkar Prodhans. Joint Secretary of the Local Government Ministry is the Member-Secretary of the Committee. Mr. Halim Chowdhury said that the committee will be expanded if necessary. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Mar 81 p 1]

BIANIBAZAR OIL DRILLING--Drilling at Bianibazar structure in Sylhet district has reached a depth of 13,454 feet to an interesting 'high pressure zone' which is very indicative of gas or oil deposits. State Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Mr Sunil Gupta told BSS on Friday that the high pressure had caused a halt in drilling temporarily but experts were trying to cross the pressure zone to find what was beyond it. The State Minister said that at the moment, drilling was going on at three promising sites: Bianibazar in Sylhet Sonagazi in Noakhali and Singra in Rajshahi. The State Minister also expressed the hope that by the end of next year one thousand barrels of oil will be produced daily as by product of natural gas at three gas fields of the country. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Mar 81 p 12]

AWAMI LEAGUE COMMITTEE--The three-day meeting of the Presidium of the Bangladesh Awami League (H) concluded on Monday. Mr. Abdul Malek Ukil, presided over the meeting according to a Press release of the party issued on Monday. The meeting unanimously nominated 27 members on the working committee of the party. The members nominated to the committee are: Messrs Rafiquiddin Bhuiya, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Abdul Momin MP; Kazi Zahirul Quayyum, Abdur Rahim Monoranjan Dhar, Lutfur Rahman MP, Salahuddin Yousuf MP Shamsur Rahman Khan Roushan Ali, Dr. Mohammed Alauddin A.K.M. Shamsuzzoha Abdullah Al-Harun Chowdhury Md. Younus Ali Maj-Gen (Retd.) Khalilur Rahman Col (Retd) Shaukat Ali MP Md Ilyas MP A.S.M. Nurunnabi, Md Hanif Md Siddique Hossain Zahirul Islam Sudhangshu Sekhar Haldar, Mahmudul Hassan Khan Haranth Bain Yahya Chowdhury Pintoo and Gazi Azharuddin. The working committee also includes all the 26 members of the presidium and the Secretariat of the Party. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Mar 81 p 8]

FRANKFURT FAIR SALES--Bangladesh participated in the Frankfurt International Trade Fair in West Germany held from March 2 to 6 with success, says a PID handout. Contracts for export of goods worth more than one million Duetsche Marks were signed by the participating exhibitors from Bangladesh in the fair. The tastefully decorated Bangladesh pavilion, where a wide range of primary and manufactured products were put on display attracted on an average over five hundred visitors per day. Thirty two trade enquirires were received in the fair for supply of Bangladesh goods like jute carpets, fashion garments leather goods, tea canned food and handicrafts. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Mar 81 p 1]

BAUDOUIN VISIT PLANNED--King Baudouin of the Belgians accompanied by Queen Fabiola will pay a four-day state visit to Bangladesh from May 20, it was officially announced in Dacca on Thursday reports BSS. The visit of the Belgian King and Queen will be in response to an invitation by the President and Begum Ziaur Rahman the announcement added. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Mar 81 p 1]

FERTILIZER PLANT APPROVED--Chittagong Urea Fertilizer project costing about Taka 673 crore with a foreign exchange component of about Taka 37 crore was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council at a meeting at the Secretariat in Dacca on Thursday, according to an official announcement. The project which will have a production capacity of 1700 metric tons per day will utilise natural gas as raw materials. It will help not only attain self-sufficiency in urea but also leave comfortable surplus for export. [Excerpt] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Mar 81 pp 1, 12]

ISLAMIC BANKING SEMINAR--A two-day seminar on Islamic banking held at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management strongly recommended setting up of Islamic banks in Bangladesh both in public and private sectors. The seminar participated by the prominent Bankers of the country concluded on Thursday. The seminar further recommended evaluation of the performance of Islamic banks and urged the government to provide legal framework for Islamic banking. Adequate arrangements be made for institutional orientation and for development of expertise. The seminar also made recommendations to introduce courses on Islamic economics and banking in the universities. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr M. Kahlid Khan, Deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank and was presided over by Dr S. A. Ather director of BIBM. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 81 p 12]

CSO: 4220/7416

U.S. 'RISKY GAME' IN INDIAN OCEAN ANALYZED

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 15. The formidable American military build-up in and around the Indian Ocean, initiated by the Reagan administration, will give the U.S. a tremendous offensive capability in the area with both conventional and nuclear power in the event of a serious crisis, according to defence experts here.

But the U.S. strategy of containing a possible Soviet threat to the Gulf area, with a rapid deployment force of roughly 100,000 men backed by immense naval and air power, may not be adequate enough if Moscow chooses to call the bluff by resorting to brinkmanship with a massive counterdeployment of its mammoth ground power along the South-West Asian perimeter ready to move down to the oil belt to thwart the American moves during an all-out confrontation.

The highly risky game that the two Superpowers are now playing in the Indian Ocean, which has grave implications for the countries of the region, has become the prime subject for animated discussion these days at the military staff colleges and war room exercises.

Those entrusted with the defence of their respective countries in this hazardous strategic environment have been gathering the necessary data from all available sources and analysing the prospect with professional detachment to arrive at some broad conclusions about the capabilities of the two Superpowers in the area and the consequences of their actions.

Major Deployment Zone

A major conclusion that has emerged from these studies is that the U.S. alone is capable of using the Indian Ocean as a major deployment zone for employing its naval power in regional conflicts, besides utilising the vast ocean expanse for nuclear submarines to strike vital targets in the soft under-belly of the Soviet Union with ballistic missiles.

The U.S. will be able to deny access to Soviet warships in times of war by closing the Suez and the Malacca Straits and patrolling the Indonesian archipelago and the Southern African sea routes.

If the Soviet Union cannot match the U.S. sea power in the Indian Ocean with its relatively smaller presence, it can certainly alter the whole strategic picture by massing its enormous land forces along its Central Asian and Caucasian borders backed by their own missile systems.

The U.S. claim that its naval buildup in the Indian Ocean is primarily aimed at deterring any rash action by the Soviet Union can be a self-defeating effort if Moscow were to cite this very American presence and use the same argument of containment and pose a counter-threat of bigger intervention in the Gulf region.

The great advantage that the U.S. has is that the Indian Ocean serves as a link between the Atlantic and the Pacific where it maintains permanent naval fleets. It is considerably easier for the U.S. to reinforce its naval power in the Indian Ocean in times of crisis and also control the entry points to it.

The Soviet Navy which is in no position to use the Indian Ocean for any offensive operations on a large scale cannot pose any serious threat to the U.S. naval power in times of war without running the risk of preemptive action. Its attempts to acquire bases, as different from ports of call, have not been successful with the result that its warships in the Indian Ocean have to depend almost entirely on supply vessels to refuel and repair them.

60 U.S. Warships

There are at present about 60 U.S. warships of various sizes in the Indian Ocean, ranging from nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and cruisers to frigates and submarines.

The Soviet Union has roughly half this number with a fire-power that is hardly a fraction of what the U.S. ships can bring to bear with their conventional and nuclear weapons.

The U.S. naval power is supplemented by another 30 ships deployed by Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand to intensify the Western power after the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The U.S. build-up includes the expansion of its existing bases as well as acquisition of new ones to provide closer support facilities for its naval and air forces, besides establishing logistical links with American military establishments in Europe and the Pacific region. The air base in Azores, for instance, is being extended to serve as a vital staging post for flying in troops from the U.S. to the Gulf area in an emergency as part of the rapid deployment plan.

The other day Parliament was told that the base facilities at Diego Garcia were being upgraded to provide for a 12,000 ft. runway capable of handling bigger military aircraft, the deep-water anchorage dredged to accommodate nuclear-powered aircraft-carriers and the electronic communications improved for maintaining constant radio contact with the warships, aircraft and submarines operating in the Indian Ocean.

The new bases that are being built in Egypt, Oman, Kenya and Somalia will supplement the facilities already available in the Gulf States.

The Australian Government is permitting the U.S. to use the existing bases and also build new ones along its west coast skirting the Indian Ocean.

The U.S. can count on use of the facilities in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore to link up its existing bases in the Philippines, Japan, Midway and Guam with the new chain under development in the Indian Ocean.

The U.S. proposes to improve the docking, storage and airport facilities at Ras Banas in Egypt on the Red Sea facing the Saudi Arabian oil terminal. It is expanding the old British base at Masirah off the Oman coast, besides building a new airfield on Seeb island at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz to handle transport, fighter and surveillance planes.

It has been permitted by Oman to extend the airfield at Thumrait and the port installations at Mutrah and Salalah which will give the U.S. naval and air forces a commanding position at this highly strategic point.

The old Soviet built base at Berbera in Somalia has now been acquired by the U.S. which is constructing or expanding two airfields, one near this naval base and another in the vicinity of Mogadishu to control the Gulf of Aden.

If on top of all this tremendous buildup the U.S. decides to arm Pakistan in a big way, it is going to pose a serious problem for countries like India which want to see the Indian Ocean transformed into a zone of peace. It is against this disquieting background that the proposed conference in Sri Lanka later this year has come to assume crucial importance.

CSO: 4220

U.S. SAID TO MISJUDGE MOOD OF DELHI GOVERNMENT

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 26.

The Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Eric Gonsalves, who deals with Indo-American relations, will go to Washington next month for detailed discussions with senior officials of the State Department on the implications of the U.S. bid to rearm Pakistan.

The dates for the visit, in early April, will be finalised after the Indian Ambassador, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, calls on the Secretary of State, Gen. Alexander Haig, on Tuesday for a general exchange of views of the subject.

The tone for these talks at various levels was set by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, when he called the U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Delhi, Mr. Archer Blood, on Monday to voice India's grave concern at the proposed move.

It was indicated in Parliament today that the current exchanges will lead to a meeting at the ministerial level, presumably between Mr. Narasimha Rao and Gen. Haig, at an appropriate moment, although no dates are being mooted at this stage.

The Reagan Administration, which has already made up its mind to rearm Pakistan on a large scale, is anxious to mollify India with renewed assurances that the proposed military aid which is defensive in character will not be used against it. But India does not consider such assurances worth any serious consideration in the light of past experience.

No sharp reaction?: The U.S. Government is reported to be proceeding on the assumption that the Indian reaction, whether in Parliament or the Press, is not as sharp as on previous occasions, because of a shared concern at the political level about a possible Soviet threat to other countries in the area in the wake of what happened in Afghanistan.

The Government is taking steps to dispel this misleading impression by being more outspoken in its criticism of the U.S. action during the parliamentary debate on the demands for grants of the External Affairs Ministry.

The U.S. is also making the big mistake of misjudging the mood of the ruling Congress(I) by reading too much into its recent moves to keep out of the CPI-dominated friendship societies and other front organisations. It has not been paying enough attention to the fact that the relations with the Soviet Union at governmental level remain as close and cordial as ever, despite India's pleas for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Two standards: It has not gone unnoticed in Delhi that the Reagan Administration has not been giving the same priority for improving relationship with India as the special keenness it has been displaying in clearing misunderstandings with China.

Apart from the visit of the former Republican President, Mr. Gerald Ford, to Beijing on a special mission, President Reagan lost no time in receiving the Chinese Ambassador in Washington last week for a long talk on Sino-American relations, in which the Vice-President, Mr. George Bush, and the Secretary of State, Gen. Haig, took part.

The U.S. has not displayed any comparable interest in an early visit to Washington by Mr. Narasimha Rao to discuss the arms issue at a higher political level, instead of confining the dialogue to officials during this crucial stage when the necessary policy decisions are being taken in Washington.

The current low key exchanges relate only to the consequences of the U.S. bid to arm Pakistan, not the propriety of the decision itself which will affect the whole region.

The Government is in touch with all the friendly countries, including some of the closest allies of the United States, to impress on all concerned the wider implications of the U.S. decision. The Ambassadors of various countries are being briefed about the destabilising effect of the American move on the entire region.

Watch on build-up: The Defence Ministry, which keeps a close watch on the military build-up in Pakistan, has been reassessing its new capabilities both in the more immediate and long-term contexts following the resumption of American arms assistance. The induction of the new weapon system will also entail the stationing of American instructors and technicians for training and maintaining this equipment by Pakistan.

CSO: 4220/7427

LOK SABHA DISCUSSES U.S. ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] The massive US arms aid to Pakistan came in for severe criticism in the Lok Sabha on Friday with MPs from different sides highlighting the grave threat it posed to the region as a whole.

Participating in the discussion on the External Affairs Ministry's demands for grants, Mr Madhavrao Scindia (Cong-I) felt that Washington's 2.5 billion dollar military-cum-economic aid package "represents a return to the policy of John Foster Dulles" initiated in the fifties and abandoned in 1965.

He said the Americans were displaying "chilling naivette" by trying to categorise countries of our region as "dependable sheep and unreliable goats."

Mr Scindia contended that there was absolutely no way of ensuring that US arms to Pakistan would not be essentially used against India as was the past experience. He quoted from Francis Fukuyama's Rand Corporation report to conclude that Pakistan's "major preoccuption is and would remain India."

Mr Scindia said Moscow's categorical offer to revive the spirit of detente "should be welcomed and accepted." In this context, he urged upon the US Administration to understand that detente was not a concession "but the recognition of a harsh necessity in a nuclear age when both (Super Powers) have acquired the capacity to destroy each other."

Without justifying the Soviet action in Afghanistan he underlined that it was a fait accompli and the Soviet presence there could not be wished away unless a practical formula was offered. "Injecting arms or propping up Governments with no popular backing" was no way to counter it, he said.

He felt that obsessed with a "fear psychosis" which was being used to keep a particular clique in power, Pakistan was opting for US alliance and doing itself harm. He opined that Pakistan should accept the Indian offer of a 'no-war pact' in the Simla spirit instead of converting the 1959 understanding with the US into a military pact.

Initiating the debate, Mr Satya Sadhan Chakraborty (CPI-M) extended his party's support to the policy of non-alignment and scathingly attacked the US for arming

Pakistan to the teeth. He warned against "attempts, both inside and outside, to corrode the anti-imperialist content of our foreign policy."

He said "American-backed Trojan horses" were trying to torpedo the anti-imperialist tenets of non-alignment and pointed out that these nations were till recently in the US camp. He cautioned New Delhi not to give in to their pressure.

He did not believe that international tensions were the result of super-power rivalry, as mentioned in the External Affairs Ministry's annual report. The Government, he said, should understand that Reagan's policy was virtually a war policy. He said it was strange that India was trying to equate USSR with the US, and claimed at present there was a greater threat of cold war from US imperialism.

Dr Subramaniam Swamy (J) felt the Government was on a wrong mission. Instead of asking the US not to supply arms, "your mission should be to try to woo Pakistan, persuade them not to take arms." Efforts should be made to delink Pakistan from Super Powers, he said.

He regretted that India's relations with her neighbours had deteriorated under Mrs Gandhi in contrast to whet [as published] had been "achieved" during the Janata Government for which he gave the main credit to Mr Morarji Desai. "Pakistanis themselves say that the Janata period was a golden period," he asserted. Dr Swamy said he had found in Pakistan no desire for competition with India.

The Janata leader opposed India's recognition of Kampuchea and its Afghanistan policy. He denied being anti-Soviet and said he accepted the fact that the USSR had supported us, but "that was due to national interests."

He wanted closer ties with China and called for Indian initiative on this score, but at the same time underscored that "relations with China can never be normal before we get back all occupied territory."

CSO: 4220/7433

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT REPORTS U.S. AID POSITION

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Mar 81 p 6

[Article by N. Ram]

[Text]

WASHINGTON March 26

The development assistance proposed for India in fiscal 1982 by the Reagan administration is $65 millions lower than the level proposed by President Jimmy Carter just before he left office. It has been confirmed officially here.

The Reagan proposal is for $110 millions, which compares with the $104 millions in development assistance committed in fiscal 1981.

These figures have been presented to the Sub-committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee by representatives from the State Department and a senior official for the US Agency for International Development.

Apart from the development aid the US administration has proposed for fiscal 1982 $140 millions in Title II of PL-480 half a million dollars in international military education and training funding under "security assistance", and $20 millions in housing and investment guarantee.

The United States resumed development aid to India in 1978—with an aid package of 240 millions. The levels were $90 millions in 1979 $103.2 millions in 1980 and $104 millions in 1981.

The major reduction in development assistance in Asia has come, in fact, for India. State Department officials acknowledged before the Congressional panel that the figure proposed for the country was considerably smaller than the request presented to Congress in the previous administration's budget.

This was justified on grounds of "budgetary constraints" imposed by the Reagan administration.

They also argued that the higher figure was part of the so-called "leadership package" presented by the Carter administration, which had been designed to stimulate support by other foreign donors for development efforts in the fields of population and agriculture.

No diminishing interest: However, the officials contended on behalf of the Reagan administration, the lower figure now proposed for India in fiscal 1982 did not signify diminished US interest in India's economic development or a lessening of US resolve to maintain constructive bilateral ties. We would hope that the Indians understand this.

Mr Frederick W. Schieck, acting Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Asia in the Agency for International Development, spoke up repeatedly in the Congressional panel on Wednesday for maintaining development assistance to India at a sustained level.

One detail he revealed in his testimony was that the scaling down of fiscal 1982 development assistance for India would be accomplished by reducing the amounts proposed earlier for fertiliser projects, the Maharashtra irrigation project, the agricultural research project and the Madhya Pradesh social forestry project. Moreover, assistance to the Maharashtra social forestry project would be deferred to fiscal 1983.

A breakdown of the reduced figures for development assistance showed that for fiscal 1982, $87.95 millions from the United States would come under the head of agriculture, rural development and nutrition, $6.9 millions under health, and $5.15 millions for selected development activities.

Another official, Mrs. Jane Coon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, stated that India provided 90 per cent of the resources for its own development and, for the balance, depended far more on funding from multilateral development banks than it did on US bilateral assistance.

India received no less than 40 per cent of total ODA funding and the point was that any sharp reduction of US support by multilateral institutions could very substantially set back India's economic development programmes. It could significantly strain Indo-US relations.

Unanswered question: The chairman of the House Sub-committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, Mr. Stephen Solarz, raised an interesting hypothetical question with the officials. Assuming the United States decided on a very substantial level of military assistance to the Pakistani regime and also assuming the decision was to stop the supply of nuclear fuel for Tarapur, would Indo-US relations reach such a low point that it would no longer matter what the level of development assistance was? The State Department officials did not, naturally, at this stage take the bait on the first two counts, but said that maintaining development assistance to India over the long term was desirable and important.

In response to a question after the hearing, Mr. Solarz told THE HINDU that he personally had not yet made up his mind on either the issue of military assistance to the Pakistani regime or Tarapur.

Congressional sources revealed that on the military side, the US administration had estimated that India would purchase from the United States, on a government-to-government basis, some $270 millions worth of weapons and equipment in fiscal 1981 plus $10 millions in commercial transactions with private parties.

For fiscal 1982, the estimate for foreign military sales under the first head to India was $25 millions with $10 millions for the second head.

CSO: 4220/7427

EXPERTS 'CONFUSED' OVER REAGAN FOREIGN POLICY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 81 p 2

[Article by V. D. Chopra: "Meaning of Reagan Factor"]

[Text] A great deal of confusion has been seen among some of our foreign policy experts about prospects of imparting new strength to Indo-US relations under the Reagan Administration. It should not surprise anyone because the desire among these experts to check a further pro-Pakistani tilt in American perceptions in this region is great. This, however, they are keen on achieving without disturbing the warm and friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

In assessing the direction of Indo-US relations, it has been widely assumed that the Reagan Administration would not switch back to the infamous Nixon-Kissinger tilt in favour of Pakistan nor would it revive the old Dullesian policy of changing the military power balance in favour of Islamabad in the sub-continent, meaning massive military aid to Pakistan.

In spite of this subjective anxiety of India and the caution its foreign policy experts are exercising with a view not to widen the chasm between the two countries--India and the US--one pertinent question which has seized our foreign policy experts is: Has the US evolved a clear policy towards India?

Indo-US relations have another facet too. To the extent the US militarily strengthens Pakistan--a process which has been going on unabated during the last one decade--India's security problems and the planning they call for would undergo a radical change.

Since the main contours of US policy towards India have yet to surface clearly, the estimate of some of our own experts at the present stage is that the Reagan Administration does not propose to offend this country's deepest sensibilities, as it did for instance in the mid-fifties when it decided to arm Pakistan. Also the anti-imperialist wave of the fifties and sixties is no longer sweeping Asia and Africa. On the other hand, the newly liberated countries have taken to pragmatic economic policies. Thus the Third World countries are seeking closer economic links with the West on the one hand and among themselves on the other. In plain terms, this assessment produces the thesis that the world scene has dramatically changed and India cannot respond to it in old attitudes.

This assessment obviously is far from reality, if one examines it on the basis of important declarations made by the Reagan Administration in recent weeks. Indian political leadership, which keenly follows the changes in the security environments of the country, does not seem to share this evaluation. Those who formulate the long-term defence policy of the country too seem to be deeply concerned about recent trends in this region.

Experts on America, for instance, have pointed out that Mr Reagan has a strong streak of self-righteousness which is bound to lead him to believe that the American people have given him the mandate to 'save' the smaller nations particularly in West Asia from the menace of what he calls 'communism' and "the Soviet Union." In this sense he does represent the social forces which have voted him to power, which are also known for a passion to succeed in international affairs in disregard, if necessary, of moral norms.

More important than this aspect is the induction of Mr Reagan as the President synchronising with the worst state of cold war and his desire to restore the confidence in America's "manifest destiny" to be the leader of the democratic world.

The cold war has created a situation particularly favourable to those in the US who are pressing for a greater American role in world affairs, in those regions and areas which they consider 'strategic' and are of importance to their economy. In contrast to the early seventies which was a trying period for the United States what with its obsession with the Vietnam 'disaster' and the Watergate scandal, the early eighties have brought to the surface new postures of aggressiveness. Furthermore, the economic recession, the most serious since the Second World War, has given a new dimension to this stance.

Viewed in this perspective, Mr Reagan's presidency might seek to bring about a new alignment of world forces to bring about dramatic changes in the world. This is likely to initiate a new kind of interventionism in the internal affairs of other countries, which follow an independent foreign policy and pursue their own course of economic development. What we are witnessing in Afghanistan and El Salvador is a partial reflection of this reality.

Between this new approach of American 'globalism' in a new form, and nonalignment as symbolised by India, adjustment obviously is not easy, notwithstanding the subjective desire for making it. This is possible in terms of an Indian willingness to accept the role of a junior partner. Its leaders obviously cannot be expected to make any concession on this score. Besides this, within the Reagan Administration too there are strong reservations about India, primarily because it is the biggest nonaligned country in the world and has been following a policy of self-reliance. In fact, Delhi's present policies do not fit into the geopolitical strategy of the US.

Though a section of the conformist press in India talked about a US policy 'tilt' towards India in the seventies the harsh reality is that the US Administration has been consistently following a policy inimical to India right from the beginning barring a short period when the Janata was in power. Even

during the Janata rule, the politico-economic relations between the two countries remained stagnant. Many observers of these relations have failed to see that apart from India's thrust for self-reliance, the relations between two countries are influenced by their world view. While India's perception has Third World dimensions, US ambitions are to become a Super-Power, which has economic vested interests on a global scale. These two perceptions clash repeatedly and get compounded with developments in Asia in general and the Indian sub-continent in particular.

Therefore, Minister of State for Defence Shivraj Patil was articulating the feelings of all patriotic sections of India when the other day in the Rajya Sabha, he expressed deep concern over Pakistan's frenzied shopping for arms. Now it is well known in New Delhi that apart from massive purchases of military hardware including antitank missiles and air defence system, Pakistan is preparing to carry out an underground nuclear test, somewhere near a site in a desert region close to the Indian border. What is most intriguing is that both London and Washington have already discussed the manner of militarily strengthening Pakistan.

There are also indications to show that the 1959 "understanding" between the US and Pakistan might be given the status of a defence treaty. It appears that both the US and Britain have decided to increase arms supplies to Islamabad. Saudi Arabia is more than willing to provide a reasonable amount of cash in return for the services rendered by the Pakistani army, Britain itself may give arms to Pakistan free of charge.

This new military build-up of Pakistan, which has deployed nearly two-third of its army on the Indo-Pak border is not an isolated development. The US has embarked already on a five-year plan to construct and expand a string of military bases across West Asia and the Indian Ocean, a widely reported fact. Parliament was told that the US had made a 'visible' escalation of its naval presence in the area. A more recently reported development was that the US plans envisaged not merely quantitative but qualitative expansion of its presence in the Indian Ocean.

American misgivings of India not only persist but seem to harden under the Reagan Administration, primarily because India follows an independent policy. More relevant to India is Washington's view of the regional equations and the way it is building the military might of Pakistan and is working out some sort of an alliance between other countries in the region with Pakistan as the key link. Whatever might have been Carter Administration's reservations about India and whatever might have been the nature of its attempts to strike a balance between India and Pakistan, it is certain that the Reagan Administration is not interested in such balancing considerations. This hardly leaves any room for India to manoeuvre. On the contrary, sufficient evidence is available leading us to believe that a massive programme to augment military capability of Pakistan is likely to be more vigorously and openly pursued by the present administration. Thus in the early eighties Indo-US relations will have more irritants than anything common. This will lead to the sharpening of contradictions between the two countries, notwithstanding the attempts of the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in general and of Mr A B Vajpayee in particular to divert people's attention from this basic issue. It was not long time back that the BJP leader said that Diego Garcia did not pose any threat to India.

CSO: 4220

DELHI STRESSES CONSEQUENCES OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 29

The Government is taking steps at various levels to create a better awareness abroad of the grave consequences of upsetting the present military balance in the sub-continent through a resumption of U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan in the name of deterring the Soviet threat to the region.

The purpose of this diplomatic exercise is to dispel the wrong impression that is being assiduously fostered that India, being a much larger country with eight times more population, a proportionately larger army and a vastly superior industrial base, has really nothing to fear from the proposed rearmament of a truncated Pakistan.

In the course of the current exchanges with visiting foreign statesmen and Foreign Ministers of different countries including the Western nations, India has been confronted with this extraordinary line of argument based on an elementary comparison of the present force levels in the sub-continent.

The U.S. move is being justified to some extent with the contention that the well-established two-to-one Indian military superiority cannot be offset through mere induction of some sophisticated equipment, because of the very limited capacity of Pakistan's armed force to absorb it.

The fact that Pakistan is a nation of only 80 million people as against India's 680 millions is no guarantee that it cannot use its strategic advantages to pose a threat to India with a more compact and modernised army equipped with sophisticated arms. The example of Israel with a population of only a few millions growing more than an equal to a dozen Arab countries with a total population of over 100 millions is there for all imperial observers to see what could be done by Pakistan in a comparable situation.

In the absence of reliable official data on the present strategic situation in the sub-continent, the Indian public opinion itself is getting grossly misled by the statements of some of the Opposition leaders, including the former Prime Minister, Mr Morarji Desai, that the present Government was crying wolf and creating a scare by exaggerating the Pakistani threat and belittling the military capability of the country to cope with it. So the Government is now slowly veering round to the view that there is no harm in divulging some of the disquieting facts to the Indian people, which were being disclosed to visiting foreign dignitaries including U.S. Congressmen.

The comparative data compiled by the Defence Ministry, for rebutting the foreign propaganda with telling facts and figures, discloses both the extent and the rate of rapid expansion, of Pakistan's armed force in the last ten years since the Bangladesh conflict. It explains in strategic terms the near parity achieved by Pakistan in terms of the deployed and deployable forces on the borders consistent with their commitments on other fronts.

The striking capacity of Pakistan in the event of another conflict with India has to be viewed in the context of the strategic advantages or disadvantages of the two sides governed by their geopolitical commitments or troop dispositions, not by the relative numerical strength of their forces. This point is well illustrated by the fact that 12 of the 28 Indian divisions remain more or less permanently tied down on the Himalayan front, while Pakistan is able to deploy as many as 12 divisions on India's borders to face an equal number with roughly the same level of reserves on either side.

After the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the U.S. suggested an agreed reduction in the force levels on Indo-Pak borders to enable Pakistan withdraw at least two divisions to reinforce its strength in the North-West frontier and Baluchistan. But Gen. Zia-Ul-Huq refused to consider the suggestion maintaining that the main threat to Pakistan's security still came from the Indian side. He maintained that if the Soviet Union decided to overrun Pakistan from Afghanistan, the mere addition of two or more divisions to the two already deployed there would make no difference.

A better way of deterring the Russians from any punitive action like attacks on the Afghan refugee camps was by raising more para-military formations and reinforcing the existing ones with modern arms and better communications. The bulk of the sophisticated U.S. arms would be used for improving the mobility and enhancing the striking power of its main front-line infantry divisions deployed on the Indian front, since the para-military units on the Afghan border cannot absorb them.

Pak strength

It is against this background that India wants other countries to make a comparative study of the present force levels and their rate of growth in the last ten years to understand how the induction of U.S. arms can alter the whole strategic balance. The numerical superiority of the Indian armed forces has to be viewed in the context of its wider defence responsibilities on the Indo-Pak and Sino-Indian fronts stretching over several thousand kilometres, not to speak of its vast coastline.

In 1972, an year after the Bangladesh conflict when it had hardly recovered from the trauma of truncation, Pakistan had only ten infantry divisions. Now it has 19 with one more in the process of formation. It had three corps headquarters at that time. Now there are seven which can handle twice the number of operational divisions in the event of another conflict. Though the number of two armoured divisions remains the same, it has increased independent armoured and artillery regiments from 23 to 32 and 79 to 165 to enable an independent armoured brigade to be attached to every corps in addition to the normal complement of each division under it.

The increase of infantry battalions from 133 to 228 is followed by a rapid expansion of the para-military forces with the Frontier Corps deployed on the Afghan front having a strength of 75,000 men organised in 80 wings, Pak Rangers with 20,000 men in 20 wings on the Punjab front and the do-or-die Mujahids Janbaaz numbering altogether 100 battalions with a total strength of 100,000 men to be increased to 300,000 soon. All these para-military units are under direct army command and are operationally integrated into the regular field formations.

The Pakistan Army which had no rocket launchers has now six of these battalions. Besides 54 first generation anti-tank missile launchers, it has now 226 second generation tow missile launchers, while the number of armoured personnel carriers has gone up from 300 to over 800. Pakistan is planning to replace its old tanks with later models with US assistance and Arab finance.

It is trying to acquire 250 American M-60 tanks, another 250 French AMX-32S, 250 British Chieftains which were initially developed for Iran and possibly an equal number of German Leopard is being built in Argentina under licence. It is also re-equipping the Chinese-supplied T-55 and T-59 tanks of Soviet design by up-gunning them to improve their performance.

The Pakistan Air Force is making an equally ambitious bid to acquire F-15 or F-16 fighter-bombers from the U.S. along with Huey Cobre helicopter gunships, C-130 transports and Hawk missiles to supplement its Mirage squadrons. It is planning to increase its 20 squadron air force to 42 with a more balanced offensive and defensive capacity for interception and interdiction.

New Strike Force

The military regime in Pakistan is also toying with the idea of raising a Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) of its own with U.S. assistance to be able to intervene in the Gulf area at short notice with a highly mobile strike force backed by its own air power and naval support.

The Pakistan Navy with only one cruiser, six destroyers, two frigates, six patrol boats and six larger and five midget submarines is not a major factor in itself, but it is being woven into the special force.

The RDF, trained and organised largely out of the divisions now deployed on the Indian front can also be used for operations against this country in the event of another conflict.

The total strength of Pakistan's army and para-military formations, along with the Navy and Air Force, is anywhere between 600,000 to 800,000 at present but it could be stepped up to a million within one year if the necessary funds and equipment are made available.

It will be a formidable force by any reckoning and India has good reason to oppose tooth and nail the US bid to rearm Pakistan, since it is going to alter the whole strategic picture in the sub-continent much more than the earlier performance.

CSO: 4220/7442

REPORT ON GANDHI SPEECH TO STATE GOVERNORS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 15 (UNI). The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, said today her government had no intention of toppling any of the non-Congress(I) governments, as alleged by some people.

Addressing the conference of state governors, which concluded today, Mrs Gandhi deplored the general decline in respect for authority and stressed the need for discipline and for achieving efficiency in administration.

Winding up the two-day conference, the President, Mr Sanjiva Reddy, emphasised the need for governors to tour intensely in their respective states to identify the problem of the people and take remedial action.

During the conference, the governors reviewed the law and order situation and the steps taken in various states to protect the interests of the scheduled castes and tribes. They also stressed the need for strengthening the public distribution system so as to make available essential commodities to the people at reasonable prices.

The governors of the Sikkim and Jammu and Kashmir and Lt-governors of Mizoram, Delhi, Pondicherry and Arunachal Pradesh gave a brief resume of the activities in their respective areas.

Addressing the conference, the home minister, Mr Zail Singh, urged the governors to take more interest in matters relating to the universities of which they are the chancellors, particularly in the context of the timely settlement of problems, if any, of the students and teachers. He said the zonal councils had been revived and were being activated.

Mrs Gandhi told the governors that they, being above group conflicts and rivalries as chancellors of universities, they were in a much better position to prevent simmering agitations.

Referring to the agitations in Gujarat and elsewhere, Mrs Gandhi said that reservations were meant for correcting historical injustice. The purpose was finally to bring about equality among all castes and communities.

"That was how the constitution had envisaged them," she said.

At the same time, Mrs Gandhi said, it was important to avoid a vested interest in backwardness. Often there were complaints amongst the backward classes themselves that the concessions and facilities given to them were cornered by the more affluent within the backward classes. "Equality would have no meaning without quality," she said.

Mrs Gandhi referred to the need for vigilance and for development of proper information systems to prevent law and order situations.

She advised the governors to encourage voluntary organisations for taking up various social services and involving the youth in such activities. There was need for educating and motivating people in family planning and also for eliminating leprosy, which seemed to be spreading.

Talking about the importance of afforestation, Mrs Gandhi said that we should encourage planting of neem and babool trees, especially in dry areas.

CSO: 4220

REPORT ON GANDHI'S SPEECH TO CONGRESS(I) LAWYERS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Mar 81 pp 1, 9

> [Text] New Delhi, March 16--While declaring that the policy of reservation for jobs and services, as guaranteed in the Constitution, would continue "for as long as it is necessary," Mrs Gandhi today said that "because of this policy genuine merit should not suffer."

Mrs Gandhi's remarks, made at a meeting of the Congress(I) Parliamentary Party lawyer members, was the first indication of a certain change in the Government line. So far it had been held that the reservation policy was not negotiable. Mrs Gandhi went to the extent of suggesting that "if merit does not get a chance there is bound to be a brain-drain which would not be good for the country."

According to an account of the meeting, provided by the CPP(I) secretary, Mr K. Lakkappa, Mrs Gandhi said that there were "pressures" from different sides on the issue of reservation. Some said that the purpose for which the policy of reservation was enforced had not yet been achieved. They felt that it would not be even in the next 15 years. Others asked if merit should suffer on account of the reservation policy.

Mrs Gandhi's view was that reservation was "an extra help." It was not a good thing by itself if "you want to use it all your life." She said: "We are trying to be of help to them (the Scheduled Castes and Tribes). When your legs are not yet so strong, we are trying to help. Reservation is like the crutch. It is not good to use a crutch all the time."

Mrs Gandhi said she had often been asked about her attitude to the reservation issue. Her attitude simply was that the help was being given to those who were weak so that they could stand on their own feet. Some of those being given help were intelligent and some less intelligent. "I do not say they are all deserving, but they have to be helped in the struggle with the other stronger people in the society. Our idea is to give them this help until reservation is no longer necessary. At the same time, because of reservation, genuine merit should not suffer. If the meritorious do not get a chance in this country, they will go out resulting in brain-drain and that will be a major problem again. Who suffers then? The person who is denied the chance does not. He

goes out. He gets a better pay and his family is better looked after. But we suffer and the nation suffers. And then, in turn, we become dependent on people coming from abroad to help us. We have to work out the reservation policy in such a manner that genuine merit does not have the feeling that it is being discriminated against."

In course of her speech Mrs Gandhi touched a number of sensitive issues. At one stage, she said that between 1977 and 1979, the Janata regime had packed the High Court benches with those who were active in other political parties" (the implication obviously was political parties other than the Congress-I). She later expanded on this theme and held that this had happened in the administrative services also. She then said: "This is our dilemma. We expect justice to be free from those closely connected with politics. What is their credibility?"

Mrs Gandhi said that "today there is a deliberate political warfare against the Congress(I). In this warfare, the main weapon is that we are undemocratic and various other things." By a sophisticated method of propaganda, a psychosis is created as if there is a confrontation between the Government and the judiciary and that the Government is trying to denigrate the judiciary. This is far from our thoughts. But we do believe that laws are made for the people. We are not confronting the judiciary. The laws are not something that are given by God, so that they cannot be changed. The laws are not static. They are made by human beings to make life more livable and peaceful and to solve the people's problems. If a law is not good, we have to change it for the good of the society."

She then said: "We do not really want to bring about a change in the judiciary, because the preservation of the judiciary is necessary for the preservation of democracy."

But, she pointed out, "I am told that a large number of appointments were made in the High Court benches all over India between 1977 and 1979 with those who are active in other political parties. During the 30 years of Congress rule, we have never thought of appointing judges on political consideration. We never injected politics in appointments. But it is the parties who are now in the Opposition who started putting their own people. The Janata Government was here and in the States, Marxists were ruling in some States. They went out of their way to remove officers having even a remote sympathy for the Congress(I)."

She added that one cause of the split in the Janata Party was that one of its constituents engaged itself in putting its own men in "places of power" rather than thinking of the national interest.

The Prime Minister charged the Marxist Governments in West Bengal and Tripura with bringing their own people (in administration) to strengthen their party base. With their ideology one could not "secure a sort of democracy or the sort of life we want in India."

The countries which had followed Marxists in the past had wiped out their past, she said. In West Bengal a book by Rabindranath Tagore which was recognized as a textbook, was taken out of the school curriculum. "It is a dangerous tendency," she said.

Mrs Gandhi said people came to her and talked about the high cost of litigation. Cases went on in courts for years.

She suggested that the Home Ministry and other Ministries should set up a special reforms committee to examine reduction in the cost of litigation.

Mrs Gandhi said that those who were saying that her Government was authoritarian were the same people who had sided with the Britishers in the freedom movement. They were also against the adult franchise.

Earlier the Law Minister Mr Shiv Shankar, said that symposium of the Congress(I) lawyer members had been organized for the purpose of "bringing about more cohesion among them, so that they could give concerted attention to issues of public interest, especially the problems connected with the judiciary."

CSO: 4220

CPI(M) POLITBURO ISSUES STATEMENT ON GANDHI

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Mrs Indira Gandhi's latest attack on the Marxist ideology and the Left Front Governments of West Bengal and Tripura "is a warning to democratic forces all over the country that the authoritarian party is steadily preparing its conspiracy to scuttle parliamentary democracy and establish one-party rule," the CPI-M politbureau said on Tuesday.

The politburo said that the common concern of all democratic parties should be to defeat all attempts to destabilise these governments.

Mrs Gandhi's entire speech, before the lawyers' forum, "will only encourage her party followers to create law and order problems in these States," the politburo statement warned. But it was certain that the people of West Bengal and Tripura would see though the game and frustrate all attempts to undermine the two State Governments. [as published]

It further observed that by attacking the Marxist ideology, Mrs Gandhi was beginning to appeal to anti-Communism the "ideology of the most reactionary forces." It said this was exactly how authoritarianism everywhere began attack on democracy.

"The Left Front Ministries of West Bengal and Tripura have stood solidly by the people, protected democratic liberties, refused to use the National Security Act and thrown their weight on the side of the downtrodden in economic struggles. This is their crime... And her charge that the Left Front Ministries are appointing partymen to judicial posts or her concern for education in Bengal is just part of a political stunt. She dares not say a word against the economic reliefs given to the people by these Governments," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Politburo members P. Ramamurti and Harkishan Singh Surjeet on Tuesday denied having met any top Cong-I leader, including Home Minister Zail Singh, for negotiations on saving the Taimur Ministry in Assam, as reported in a section of the press.

Branding the newspaper report "totally false, motivated and slanted," Mr Ramamurti said in a statement that he had not met the Home Minister or the Prime Minister since the last session of Parliament, and Mr Surjeet too had not seen the Home Minister for over a month.

CSO: 4220

CONGRESS(U) OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS(I)

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Mr Sharad Pawar, the Congress (U) Working Committee member, said in Calcutta on Saturday that having failed to fulfil her election pledges, Mrs Gandhi was now trying to wean away some of the promising leaders of the Congress (U) to bolster her own party and, at the same time, weaken the Congress (U) which was gaining strength every day.

Mr Pawar who was addressing a general body meeting of the West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee (U), said that there was no reason why any of them should join Mrs Gandhi's party because "without Mrs Gandhi there is no future for the Congress (I)". She had become apprehensive of the growing strength of the Congress (U) which was slowly but steadily catching the imagination of the youth of the country through its unflinching dedication to democracy and socialism.

The former Chief Minister of Maharashtra said that the Congress (U) was not prepared to come closer to the Congress (I) on the national political plane compromising basic issues. But there could be cooperation between the two parties on local issues, like elections to municipalities, panchayats and to cooperatives. Such adjustments had been made in Maharashtra. The Congress (U) Working Committee had left such decisions to individual PCCs.

The Congress (U), he said, would work for strengthening the Left and democratic forum till it became a viable alternative to the Congress (I). He, however, failed to understand the CPI(M)'s hostile attitude towards the West Bengal unit of his party because the CPI(M) had cooperated with the Maharashtra PCC in its struggle for payment of remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce.

Speaking of the deterioration in the law and order situation in the country, Mr Pawar said that in New Delhi women did not feel safe to go out of homes after six in the evening. Some of the Congress (I) women M.P.s from Maharashtra had been provided with cars to ensure their safe movement after sunset. The M P.s often had to attend meeting after the session of Parliament which sometimes sat till 7 or 8 in the evening.

Describing the reports of his joining the Congress (I) as baseless, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi the WBPCC (U) president, said that he was a dedicated soldier of his party and he had no plans "to make an abject surrender to an individual". He was confident that the Congress (I), which was controlled by a single family,

would not be able to provide a leadership to the country. The Congress (U), which functioned in a democratic manner, would soon grow to become a factor in both national and State politics. He described the CPI(M)'s role in keeping alive the Taimur Ministry in Assam as an act of political opportunism.

The PCC (U) general body adopted a resolution urging all non-Left Front parties to come to an understanding to select one candidate for each constituency in the coming municipal election in West Bengal. It felt that the non-Left Front parties should unite on this issue because they had been protesting against the inclusion of the names of bogus voters in the electoral roll by the Left Front. The resolution also supported the current agitation by the intellectuals and educationists against the "Left Front's attack on the State's education system".

CSO: 4220/7435

CPI GENERAL SECRETARY ISSUES STATEMENT ON GUJARAT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] The Communist Party of India has appealed to the Central Government to call an urgent meeting of political parties, mass organisations and well meaning people to review the dangerous situation arising out of the prolonged anti-reservationist agitation in Gujarat and take necessary steps to fight the serious menace.

In a statement on Tuesday, CPI general secretary C. Rajeswara Rao expressed grave concern over disturbing reports of attempts to spread the anti-reservationist movement to other States, notably Rajasthan and UP, and charged the BJP and RSS of duplicity in the matter.

He pointed out that while BJP president A B Vajpayee and RSS chief Balasaheb Deoras had sworn by reservation, "their followers in Gujarat are actively propagating for the abolition of reservations for Harijans, Adivasis and backward castes and are among the most active elements in the agitation."

Mr Rao underlined that 'sinister forces behind the agitation are intent upon launching a caste war on an all-India scale with the sordid intention of strengthening their political position among the upper castes.'

He felt that the Gujarat Congress-I Ministry 'must also share its responsibility for the worsening situation' alongside the upper caste chauvinist forces conducting the agitation. 'It must be stated that the equivocal stand of the Gujarat Government and the factional power struggle in their party have emboldened the agitationists to carry on their disruptive game, he observed, and urged the Centre to give up its ambiguous stand.

Mr Rao further warned that the agitation was also a 'diversionary move to split the people on caste lines' and disrupt the united mass movements and struggles of various sections of people taking place in the country on their just demands.

'What is happening in Gujarat is a danger signal which the Left and democratic parties, mass organisations and well-meaning people in the country can ignore at their peril. The Communist Party of India appeals to all parties and mass organisations to lose no time in coming together to face the onslaught of casteist and communal reation,' he said. [as published]

CSO: 4220

FRENCH TEAM TO DISCUSS WORK ON BOMBAY HIGH

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, March 18: A five-member team of experts of the French firm, CFP, has arrived here for consultation with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for raising the optimum production fixed for Bombay High from 12 million tonnes a year to 17 million tonnes.

The government decided to invite the firm for the purpose because CFP has been associated with the development of the Bombay High reserves from the beginning and has knowledge of its structure.

The government's plan is to raise production from the present seven million tonnes to 17 million tonnes in the next two years on account of the urgent need to cut down the import of crude as far as possible because of its adverse impact on the national economy.

Production Rate

CFP, which had earlier advised the ONGC not to go beyond the annual production rate of 12 million tonnes from Bombay High, has apparently concurred with the government's idea of increasing the production rate further with the help of the latest sophisticated equipment. The expert's team, in its discussions with the ONGC, is expected to finalise how to go about the job.

The contract with the firm, as indicated by the petroleum minister, Mr P. C. Sethi, earlier, will be based on a sharing of the product but the payment will be made in monetary terms. This will be in addition to the normal fees charged by the company.

The finalisation of contracts with the large number of foreign firms invited to participate in the oil exploration drive is progressing according to schedule. So far, 21 firms have held detailed discussions with petroleum ministry officials and three other firms have indicated their willingness to undertake exploration. They are expected to submit their final bids by the end of April.

The terms of the contract will be finalised after the bids are received but the actual exploration work is likely to begin towards the middle of next year.

CSO: 4220

FRANCE REPORTED EAGER TO EXPAND TIES WITH INDIA

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 27

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, will lay the foundation stone on Sunday for the Rs 1,240-crore integrated alumina complex at Damanjodi in Orissa, being set up with French collaboration.

The other alumina project on the east coast, which is to be built with Soviet assistance, is still in the planning stage although three years have passed since it was first agreed upon in 1978 during Mr. Morarji Desai's Moscow visit.

The French Government, which is pushing forward with its wide-ranging plans for increased economic collaboration, has finalised the arrangements for the Orissa alumina complex within a year of President Giscard's visit. The necessary foreign exchange requirement of $680 million has already been underwritten by a consortium of 49 banks, while the French Government itself is providing export credits to the total value of roughly $400 millions for this largest Indo-French project.

The French Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr Michel Cointat, will represent his Government at the foundation laying ceremony on Sunday, along with representatives of the banks lending the money and the French firm, Aluminium Pechiney, which will provide technical collaboration.

The French are reported to be keen on adhering to the target dates for the completion of the construction and commencement of production.

The French Foreign Minister, Mr Francois-Poncet is arriving on Monday on a one-day visit for talks with the Government on increased cooperation.

The finalisation of the alumina project in a record time of one year is seen as an eloquent example of the French determination to press forward with agreed collaboration plans while continuing to explore additional fields for increasing and diversifying the cooperation.

The French are actively competing with other Western countries in almost every sphere, from the development of India's oil industry to the expansion of defence production. The small car project is only one of many such industrial ventures in which the French are offering to assist with both euro-dollar loans and technical cooperation.

Mirage offer. The most ambitious project relates to the French offer to help India build Mirage-2000 which will meet the country's air defence requirements till the turn of this century with its versatility and highly advanced weapons systems.

Though British Aerospace spokesmen continue to put on a brave face pretending that India is all set to manufacture the Jaguars with its collaboration, it is common knowledge in Delhi that the manufacturing part of the three-phase programme has already been scrapped for all practical purposes.

If India has chosen not to announce the decision, it is only because the Government would like to keep the option open until it has struck the necessary deal with France for the acquisition and manufacture of Mirage-2000s on fairly advantageous terms.

It might take a few months more to complete these complex negotiations following the technical evaluation of its performance by IAF experts who have test flown the aircraft.

But, strangely enough, France is not competing with Britain and West Germany for building the Paradeep steel plant. It is concentrating on areas where it has a marked technical edge over its rivals in striking the deals that are mutually beneficial and free from political overtones.

CSO: 4220/7432

TRUDEAU REPORTEDLY SEEKING VISIT WITH GANDHI

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Mar 81 p 7

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, March 27.

There are indications that the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Pierre Trudeau, would like to pay a brief visit to Delhi for talks with Mrs. Indira Gandhi, either before or after the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference in Melbourne in September depending on mutual convenience, to heal the breach and restore the missing confidence in Indo-Canadian relations.

The Government has not yet responded to the discreet inquiries from the Canadian side because, much as Mrs. Gandhi would like to have Mr. Trudeau visit India again, she has to finalise the travel plans for her projected visits to Australia and Mexico, and perhaps also some other countries in Europe, around that time of the year before extending an invitation to him.

Blast aftermath: The relations between India and Canada, which were particularly cordial and mutually beneficial, suffered a sudden setback in 1974 after the Pokhran explosion, when Canada abruptly suspended the nuclear cooperation agreement.

The then Canadian Government, headed by Mr. Trudeau himself, took the stand that since in its view there was no difference between a nuclear test for peaceful purposes and one for potential military uses, Canada could not continue its nuclear assistance to India consistent with its non-proliferation policy. The abrupt suspension of nuclear assistance was followed by an equally astonishing cut-off of all economic assistance other than food aid with the argument that the continuance would enable India to divert a part of its own resources for its nuclear programme.

The subsequent negotiations for meeting the pending obligations to supply the remainder of the contracted equipment for the second reactor at the Rajasthan atomic power plant were broken off without assigning any reasons after an agreement was initialled.

Indo-Canadian relations have thus remained frozen for all practical purposes since the time of the Pokhran explosion with no worthwhile contacts at the

highest levels, alth gh the two countries continued to exchange routine visits by Ministers and sen or officials for strictly functional purposes.

The warmth that characterised Indo-Canadian relationship during the early years of Indian independence faded away, yielding place to some strong reservations on either side about its continued relevance to the two countries divided by such long distances.

But it goes to Canada's credit that after the initial flush of resentment, and the subsequent freeze sustained for several years by domestic political compulsions, it started taking steps in a slow but unmistakable manner to repair the damage done by its overreaction.

The suspended developmental assistance was restored in stages leading to the recent offer to increase it substantially in areas like power, mining, and agriculture.

Contacts Resume: This gesture has set the tone for the resumption of contacts at the higher political levels between the leaders of the two Governments.

The offer of Mr. Trudeau to pay a visit to Delhi has helped to break the ice. The two Prime Ministers, Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Trudeau, will in any case be meeting at the Commonwealth conference in Melbourne and the North-South summit in Mexico in October, but a bilateral meeting will go a long way in dispelling the lingering suspicions.

After the Pokhran explosion, Mrs. Gandhi met Mr. Trudeau only once in the West Indies during a Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference. But otherwise no Indian Prime Minister or Foreign Ministers, whether during Congress or Janata rule, had visited Ottawa in the last seven years since this setback in Indo-Canadian relations.

The Canadian Government continues to entertain strong misgivings about India's policy of refusing to submit to fullscope safeguards and sign the non-proliferation treaty.

But the Pakistani bid to go in for a bomb programme with obvious technical assistance, if not political encouragement, from some circles in the West, has made countries like Canada realise that their self-righteous attempts to restrain India from even going ahead with the development of nuclear energy would serve no useful purpose.

CSO: 4220/7432

FAREWELL CEREMONY HELD FOR VIETNAMESE ENVOY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Mar 81 p 10

[Text] The need for close friendship between India and Vietnam to safeguard peace in south-east Asia and in the world was stressed at a function organised on Thursday by the Friends of the Soviet Union New Delhi reports UNI.

The Society had hosted a farewell to Vietnamese ambassador, Nguyen Van Sinh, who is leaving the Capital after a five-year tenure.

Besides the ambassadors of Kampuchea and Laos--Mr Dith Munty and Dr Kithone Vongsay--it was attended by senior Cong-I MPs, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, Mr R. L. Bhatia, Mr Vithal Gadgil and Mr Nawal Kishore Sharma.

The Nonageniarian Communist leader S. A. Dange and his daughter Mrs Rosa Deshpande who is also the general secretary of the All India Communist Party were also present.

Proposing the toast, Mr K. R. Ganesh, convener of the Friends of Soviet Union underlined the common commitment of the two countries to freedom from imperialist and colonial domination and hegemonistic control.

Underlying the identity of outlook between India and Vietnam on many world issues. The Vietnamese ambassador expressed confidence that the two countries together would constitute a major factor for peace in the region.

CSO: 4220

ARYAN LEAGUE WARNS AGAINST ISLAM CONVERSION PLANS

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] Hyderabad, March 26.

The Sarva Desika Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (International Aryan League) has urged the Government of India to ban immediately conversion through the "use of force, lure of money or other unlawful methods" and also control the flow of foreign money into the country.

Mr. Om Prakash Tyagi, general secretary of the Sabha and former MP, told pressmen here today that the Sabha was also warning about the existence of an "international conspiracy" for the disintegration of India through "Mulsim communalism and Christian proselytisation".

He said that about Rs. 500 crores of foreign money was flowing into India every year and it was being used for purposes of "conversion" which was politically-motivated.

Mr. Tyagi quoted reports published in the ARAB TIMES of Kuwait (January 19, 1981) and INDIA ABROAD of New York (January 20, 1981) in support of the "foreign conspiracy and flow of funds" statement.

According to the ARAB TIMES report, quoting the Director of the Islamic Cultural Centre of London, Mr. Mohammed Abdul Kheir, the time was 'opportune' for converting Harijans to Islam.

Mr. Vandemataram Ramachandra Rao, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Official Language Commission and an Arya Sabha leader, said he had received a letter froma village called Panpula (pin code 627801) in Tamil Nadu to the effect that 50 Hindu families there were recently converted to Islam. (Panpula is five km from Tenkasi in Tirunelveli district).

The conversion was alleged to have been organised under a project sponsored by the Islamic Cultural Centre of London with a grant of £50,000 from Kuwait.

Mr. Tyagi said the Jamaat-e-Islami conference held in Hyderabad recently had given the slogan "Islamisation of India" which was "dangerous" in that it would provoke communal feelings.

He said that some persons connected with the recently-formed Islamic Council of India were known to have discredited India abroad. The statements issued by the council, he said, 'were contradictory'. 'Foreign assistance' was evident in these recent developments, he said.

The Arya Sabha leader criticised the Government for its appeasement policy to get votes and remain in power.

CSO: 4220/7427

SHAKE UP IN CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION NOTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 26.

A big shake-up in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) wqs ordered today, with two SPs and 13 DSPs transferred in the first batch, it is learnt.

Most of the officers under transfer, it is believed, are those who had investigated cases during the Janata rule, some of them registered on the basis of the Shah Commission findings.

Transfers of another 40 CBI officers and men are being finalised.

The officers transferred have been given less than a week's time to go to the places of their new posting.

Mr. M. L. Sachdeva and Mr. Chiranjiv Lal, SPs on deputation with the CBI, have been transferred to the Delhi Police and the Haryana Police respectively.

Mr. K. N. Gupta, DSP, who was the investigating officer in the 'Kissa Kursi Ka' case involving Sanjay Gandhi and Mr. V. C. Shukla, has been posted to the CBI, Bhubaneswar. [as published]

For Mr. Abinash Chander, DSP, who had investigated the Sunder murder case, the new posting takes him to the Punjab Police.

The 13 DSPs transferred include nine on deputation with the CBI.

Mr. V. R. Puri, DSP, Investigating Officer in the polymix case involving Sanjay Gandhi, is being sent to the Delhi Police.

Mr. R. L. Bajaj, DSP, who had conducted investigation in a case aganst [as published] Mr. V. S. Ailawadi, now Vice-Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority, has also been transferred to the Delhi Police.

For Mr. H. K. L. Dewan, DSP, Investigating Officer in a case against Mr. R. K. Dhawan, an aide to the Prime Minister, the transfer orders are for Haryana.

Mr. K. G. Vidyasagar and Mr. N. C. Verma, DSPs who assisted the Shah Commission, have been asked to go to Bangalore and Ranchi respectively.

Only Mr. Chiranjiv Lal, SP, figures in the list of winners of the President's police medal for distinguished service presented by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on Monday.

The CBI has already set up a committee to review the awards recommended by the Janata Government.

Other DSPs transferred are: Mr. Swadesh (to Orissa), Mr. K. L. Ramanathan (to Tamil Nadu), Mr. J. N. Mahapatra (to Orissa), Mr. P. Jagannath Reddi (to Karnataka), Mr. M. H. Khan (to Bihar) and Mr. S. N. Swain (to Orissa).

CSO: 4220/7427

TWO-MONTH CURFEW BEGINS ON INDO-BURMESE BORDER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Imphal, March 15 (UNI)--The entire 20-km. Indo-Burma border area came under a dawn-to-dusk curfew from yesterday for two months.

The curfew was imposed to check the movement of insurgents in the border area, according to the Manipar south district magistrate.

PTI adds: Meanwhile, three people were shot dead and two injured by some youths in two incidents here yesterday, the police said today.

One of the incidents took place at Shingjamei, killing one person.

Two persons were killed and two others injured at Ukhrul, 20 km. from here.

No arrests were made.

Meanwhile, two bodies are recovered at Haorang, near here, today, the police said, adding that they were yet to be identified.

Agartala: Three local tribal leaders of the ruling CPM were killed and two seriously injured in three separate attacks by armed tribal extremists in Tripura during the last fortnight, official sources said here today.

A tribal CPM leader, Mr Bagala Moham Jamatiya of Amarpur division, south district, was believed to have been killed after he was dragged away from his house by extremists on February 28. His body has not been found so far, the sources said.

Another tribal leader, Mr Gaug Chand Jamatiya, was hacked to death in his house in the same subdivision by the extremists on March 3. Two other members of his house also received bullet injuries in the attack.

Mr Paida Singh, the third victim, died in hospital after being attacked and injured seriously by the extremists in Kamalpur of north district, they added.

Aizawl: Preparations are on for the executive meeting of the Mizo National Front (MNF) at Parva, the trijunction of India, Burma and Bangladesh where the MNF president, Mr Laldenga, will hold talks with his followers to evolve a solution to the Mizo issue.

Meanwhile, Mr Laldenga has reached the MNF headquarters across the border, according to sources close to the MNF here today.

The sources denied a press report having said that the executive meeting of the MNF had already started. The meeting would begin only next week, the sources added.

Itanagar: A man carrying 100 detonators in a bag was arrested by the Central Reserve Police at Bhaluk Pong checkpost in Arunachal Pradesh on March 12, a CRPF press release said today.

This is the second seizure of explosives within a week at the checkpost in Kameng district.

The man was handed over to the local circle officer for interrogation, the release added.

Earlier, on March 10 eight people were arrested when a truck carrying a huge quantity of explosives, detonators and fuses was intercepted at the same checkpost.

CSO: 4220

ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER APPEALS FOR COOPERATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Gauhati, March 15 (PTI): Assam's chief minister, Mrs Anowara Taimur, today reiterated that the solution of the foreign nationals issue in the state could be found only through negotiations with the Centre and not by agitational methods.

Inaugurating a symposium on the "Role of Assam in national integration," organised by the directorate of information and public relations to mark the completion of 100 days of the Congress(I) ministry in the state, Mrs Taimur sought the cooperation of the people for strengthening national integration.

She said that normalcy was fast returning in Assam and students were appearing in their examinations after two years.

She said reactionary forces were making concerted attempts to create chaos and confusion in Assam and other areas of the north-eastern region for their own ends.

She appealed to the people to remain vigilant to counteract such activities and to maintain peace and amity among all sections of people.

She said the peculiar problems of Assam and the region were now fully realised by the Centre it had agreed to take up new packages for the all-round development of the region. [as published]

She said complete peace and amity was the need of the hour to implement all the developmental programmes for the people.

Meanwhile, hectic behind the scene lobbying is underway here as the ensuing assembly session from Thursday approaches when the three-month-old Taimur ministry will face a trial of strength.

While Mrs Taimur is confident of the backing of 66 legislators in a house with an effective strength of 121, Mr Golap Borbora, leader of the 28-member Janata legislative party contests her claim.

According to the latest official figures available with the speaker, Mr Borbora says, the present strength of the Congress(I) could not exceed 44.

The Congress(I) and the opposition are both trying to woo the CPM and the CPI, which have a combined strength of 17 members in the house and appear to be the balancing factor.

The two parties, on their part, have not announced their decision so far and are awaiting the directive of the central leadership.

The Janata,Congress(U), the Plains Tribal Council of Assam, Asom Janata Dal, Progressive Democratic Front and Lok Dal are trying to form a united opposition front in a bid to provide an alternative government in the event of the fall of the Taimur ministry. However, a clear picture of an opposition front is yet to emerge.

CSO: 4220

TROUBLES ON UTTAR PRADESH-BIHAR BORDER REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Mar 81 p 8

[Text] From Bihar Angle

NARAJOR village in Bhojpur district, with a population of 15,000 and the local point of tension between Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is a violence-prone village. There have been recurring confrontations between the U.P. farmers backed by the Provincial Armed Constabulary and Bihar farmers during harvesting time.

During the last 10 years, at least 50 persons have lost their lives in clashes. Even now the situation is such that violence may erupt any moment.

Replying to a calling attention motion of a BJP member in the State Assembly a few days ago, Bihar's Revenue Minister, Mr. Lahsan Choudhry agreed that U.P. farmers with PAC help, had forcibly harvested crops raised by Bihar farmers.

At Buxar, a subdivisional town of Bhojpur district, the affected farmers are on a relay fast since February 2 in protest against the State Government's failure to protect their crops.

On may 27 last year, Mr. K. Tiwari, M.P. from Buxar, wrote to the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Yogendra Makwana urging him to take steps to protect the rights of Bihar farmers.

Mr. Makwana had assured Mr. Tiwari that the right of Bihar tenants would be protected fully. But apparently nothing was done as the land dispute has erupted again.

While Narajor village is situated in Bihar, the lands of its farmers were transferred to Uttar Pradesh in 1970 after a fresh demarcation of the boundary between Bihar and U.P. by the Survey of India in the light of the Chandulal Trivedi award. Prior to the award, the midstream points of the Ganga and the Ghaghra were recognised as the boundary. This, however, led to complications as the two rivers frequently were changing their courses.

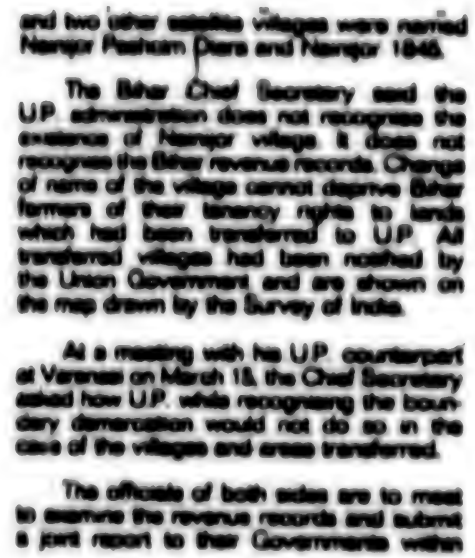
At the instance of the Chief Ministers of Bihar and U.P., Nehru appointed C. L. Trivedi, former Governor, in 1952 to delineate a fresh border.

Under his award given in 1964, the midstream concept was replaced by a permanent border. Parliament also passed the Bihar-Uttar Pradesh Boundaries Alteration Act in 1968 to give effect to the award. About 20,000 hectares of land went to U.P. and over 10,000 hectares of U.P. land came to Bihar.

In all, 114 Bihar villages (49,809 acres) were transferred to U.P. and 40 U.P. villages (26,402 acres) went to Bihar. Eighty-seven Bihar villages were in Bhojpur district on the banks of the Ganga before they were transferred to U.P. Bihar got from U.P. 23 villages in the Ganga sector. These transfers of land did not touch the tenancy rights of the owners. Only the farmers had to pay the land revenue to the States to which the lands had been transferred.

Bihar's complaint is that while U.P. farmers are allowed to farm their transferred lands without any hindrance, U.P. farmers in league with the administration are attempting to grab the lands of Bihar farmers transferred to U.P.

Besides Narajor, the other trouble points are the villages of Umarpur Diara (Bhojpur district on the Ganga bank), Chaghra Diara and Bhagar Diara (Ghaghra sector in Siwan district of North Bihar). According to Bihar Chief Secretary, U.P. farmers have grabbed the lands of Bihar farmers in Narajor village. The U.P. farmers got these lands surveyed by their officials and prevailed upon the latter to enter their names in the revenue records. The name of Narajor was changed to Harsenagar



and two other satellite villages were named Nanajor Pasham Diara and Nanajor 1846.

The Bihar Chief Secretary said the U.P. administration does not recognise the existence of Nanajor village. It does not recognise the Bihar revenue records. Change of name of the village cannot deprive Bihar farmers of their tenancy rights to lands which had been transferred to U.P. All transferred villages had been notified by the Union Government and are shown on the map drawn by the Survey of India.

At a meeting with his U.P. counterpart at Varanasi on March 18, the Chief Secretary asked how U.P. while recognising the boundary demarcation would not do so in the case of the villages and areas transferred.

The officials of both sides are to meet to examine the revenue records and submit a joint report to their Governments within a month and a half after which the two Chief Secretaries will meet again to resolve the dispute once for all.

What is happening at Nanajor is that since 1988 the Bihar farmers have been sowing crops on their lands every year and when the crop is ready, it is forcibly harvested by the U.P. farmers and police. Violence invariably erupts during the harvesting.

According to the Revenue Department sources, U.P. was harvesting crops not only in Nanajor but also in Ghaghra Diara and Bhagar Diara villages on the banks of the Ghaghra in Siwan district. But so far there has been no grabbing of land as happened in Nanajor. The U.P. Government is reported to have ordered resurvey of lands in response to Bihar's protest. But U.P. officials have not so far issued land revenue receipts to Bihar farmers.

From U.P. Angle

A tense situation prevails in the U.P.-Bihar border. The efforts of the officials of the two States to resolve the dispute over 1,600 hectares of land have proved infructuous.

Unless a decision is taken at the political level by the two Chief Ministers, or the Centre steps in, the dispute may not be solved and this can lead to violence.

District officials of Ballia had sent an SOS to Lucknow for posting BSF or CRP along the State's border facing Bhojpur in Bihar. There had been intermittent firing from the other side of the border, they alleged.

A U.P. Government survey team, which went to the disputed area, was taken hostage by the villagers. Repeated efforts of the Ballia district officials to get them released through the intervention of the Bhojpur District administration did not yield any result. The Bhojpur officials were said to have pleaded helpnessness. [as published]

The U.P. Government, preoccupied with other forms of law and order problems, obviously wanted to play down the incident.

The disputed land once formed part of Bhojpur district. But owing to the changes in the course of the Ganga, which divides these two States at this point, this area is now in Ballia district of U.P.

Violence erupts mainly during the sowing and harvesting season. There have been exchange of fire, resulting in casualties in the past also.

Villagers of both sides, claiming ownership over the disputed area, have the tacit backing of their respective administrations. The police have often played a low key role.

Bihar, however, claims that a larger area is under dispute.

Talks were held in the past to resolve the dispute with the aid of Survey of India maps and old revenue records.

The U.P. Government does not dispute that some areas which once formed part of Bhojpur district are now in Ballia. It has, however, questioned Bihar's claim to the total area involved.

According to U.P. sources only 4,000 acres (and not 50,000 acres as claimed in Patna) of land are in dispute and this has also been shown in the map prepared by the Survey of India. This too has happened because of the change in the course of the river. Till the fate of the 4,000 acres of land is settled the U.P. Government will not accept Bihar's revenue and tenancy records.

At the Varanasi meeting of the two Chief Secretaries, the only point of agreement was that officials of the two States would ensure maintenance of law and order in their areas.

The Bihar officials maintained that nothing emerged from the meeting and that another attempt would be made in Patna. Some sources say that the meeting did not touch even the basic issue.

The stand of U.P. officials, however, is that the dispute had been resolved and no further meeting was called for. The Survey of India would fix pillars to demarcate the border, which would be completed by June 15.

As against this, Bihar is insistent that the border should first be determined, particularly along village Nainijor in Bhojpur, before fixing the boundary pillars.

The U.P. Government did not also accept Bihar's proposal that nearly 800 tenants of Nain jor village be treated as tenants of U.P. It pointed out that Bihar could not effectively look after the law and order problem of a village which now practically formed part of U.P. due to the change in the course of the Ganga.

Most of such riverine villages on the border are known to be the abodes of criminals and smugglers.

In view of these wide disparities in the stands of the two States, a settlement appears remote.

The two Chief Ministers will have to sit together and sort out the dispute or it will have to be referred to a commission headed by a retired Supreme Court judge. Any delay will only aggravate the already bad law and order problem in the two States.

CSO: 4220/7432

GANDHI MEETS WITH FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 81 pp 1,7

[Text] Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Tuesday said the private sector had a wide field to grow but had not fulfilled its responsibility, reports PTI.

Talking to a visiting group representing multinationals and other foreign private firms, she said the private sector had not ploughed back its improved profits for modernisation of increasing production. It some times created deliberate shortages, she said.

The group, led by Mr Orville Freeman, heard the Prime Minister warn that protectionism by industrialised countries did not hurt developing countries alone but adversely affected their own interests in the long run.

The 'Business International,' as the group is known, has been having meetings in Delhi also with individual Ministers in charge of economic portfolios and senior officials.

The businessmen are understood to have sought during the talks clarification of the official policy in relation to flow of foreign capital and technology and have also explored the possibility of setting up joint ventures.

At the meeting with her, Mrs Gandhi explained to them the mixed economy India has chosen for itself and also the efforts at diversifying ideas, know-how and investment from abroad.

The Prime Minister said the role of foreign investments was not static and had been changing as the country grew and learnt and planned for more and more production.

How the Indian economy could be strengthened had been the touchstone in such matters. For example, there might be indigenous production but the country needed more of that equipment within a time-frame. So imports were allowed, she explained.

About the role of public sector in the country, Mrs Gandhi said public enterprises were set up not for profits but to have commanding heights in the economy.

They had started with certain disadvantages of overheads since they were to provide service and welfare programmes like housing. They picked up however and were doing well, now reviving from a set-back in the last three years.

The mixed economy left enormous field open for the private sector also for growth, she said. They were to grow within certain parameters, since the economy had to be balanced having regard to what was good for the country.

The Prime Minister said the Government had to provide for better production and better distribution so that the requirements of those who needed most were met. Benefits of production should reach the people.

On control, Mrs Gandhi said the experience of relaxation of controls had not been always good. Therefore, they had to be used some times.

Now attempts were being made for a less constructive system so that production was not hampered.

But private sector, she regretted sometimes created deliberate shortages.

Mrs Gandhi said India had been trying to diversify sources of foreign know-how and investment.

For the first steel plant, she recalled, the country had approached the United States and had been refused assistance. It then turned to the Soviet Union. Subsequently more steel mills came up with assistance from other countries.

CSO: 4220

CORRESPONDENT ASSESSES WORLD BANK PRESIDENT'S VISIT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Mar 81 pp 1, 5

[Text] WORLD Bank president Robert McNamara ended his six-day visit on Saturday, leaving behind hopes of maintaining India's share in its total assistance in spite of Peking's entry into the world body.

Though Mr McNamara was silent in his statement on the visit on this, official sources claimed that he had assured Finance Minister R Venkataraman that India would continue to get 40 per cent share in future as well. The Finance Minister, during his two rounds of talks, had requested him to increase the soft loan from IDA.

Barring this, the visit seems to have not yielded anything for India. Mr McNamara is learnt to have pleaded helplessness on the most controversial issue of the World Bank's denial of aid for India's Thal-Vaishet fertiliser plant. All that he did was to explain the Bank's rules and request the Indian side to take up issue with his successor.

In fact, Mr McNamara seems to have taken the tour as a farewell visit before he retires. Therefore, there was not much serious discussion on the future World Bank programmes for India. Most of the time, he was visiting villages in UP.

Various Ministers and top officials had re-assured him about the various steps the World Bank has been prescribing to improve the economy. While the Commerce Ministry explained the steps being taken to increase exports, Industries Minister narrated the liberalisation of licensing, better facilities to private foreign investment and the changes in MRTP and FERA.

Shortly before his departure, Mr McNamara said in a statement: "I am deeply impressed by what I have seen and heard".

Mr Venkataraman, with whom Mr McNamara held a wrap-up meeting on Saturday, expressed optimism about the World Bank aid to meet India's development requirement. The outlook is very bright' the Minister said later, adds PTI.

Finance Minister Venkataraman, with whom Mr McNamara held a wrap-up meeting on Saturday expressed optimism about the World Bank aid to meet India's development requirement. 'The outlook is very bright' the Minister said later.

In specific terms, India is understood to have sought an additional Bank assistance of 300 million to 400 million dollars (apart from what has been negotiated for) to meet the increased investment needs for the second year of the sixth Plan and also given advance notice of one billion dollar requirement for the Bank year ending June 1982.

The Bank would appear inclined to step up the level of lending to India, judging by a reported remark by Mr McNamara in Saturday's talks that India was not borrowing as much as its capacity would allow.

A plea for 700 million to 800 million dollars aid has been made for the railway sector alone to finance schemes like electrification, , modernisation and signalling.

Mr Venkataraman is understood to have particularly emphasised the need for more of 'programme' lending than project-lending. This would enable India to import scarce raw materials basic to its development.

The World Bank president is understood to have broadly endorsed India's sixth Plan and the basic strategy it underlines for development.

The plan has effectively laid out an impressive agenda, Mr McNamara said in his statement to the press. However, he cautioned that inflation and recession in the develop countries and the continuing deterioration in the terms of trade 'pose a serious challenge to policymakers in India'.

There was some concern on the part of the World Bank over the population growth in India. The Bank would be ready to assist technical programmes, including research effort on new family planning schemes, apart from sterilisation efforts, it was indicated. Latest census figres put India's population at 683 million.

India is understood to have been assured that its current 40 per cent share of soft loans from IDA (International Development Association) stood in no immediate dangers of a cut, even though China has emerged as a new claimant for IDA funds.

Mr McNamara is understood to have indicated that the United States would make contributions to IDA's sixth replenishment about which there had been uncertainty earlier. To begin with, the US might contribute smaller amounts increasing them in due courses.

India, it was indicated to the World Bank Team, would prefer sector wise loans to a structural adjustment loan for the economy as a whole. (Structural adjustment loan would imply overall World Bank monitoring of economy).

Mr McNamara, was accompanied by two vice presidents of the Bank: Mr Munir Benjenk and Mr W David Hoover.

CSO: 4220/7438

GROWTH IN MULTINATIONALS' ASSETS REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

WHILE the branches of multinationals in India declined from 491 in 1978 to 358 in 1979, and their profits before tax from Rs 57.9 crore to Rs 15.9 crore, their assets in India rose from Rs 1,782.2 crore to Rs 2,01.4 crore in the same period, reports PTI.

The subsidiaries of multinationals in India also declined from 171 in 1978 to 125 in 1979, but unlike the branches their profits before tax correspondingly rose from Rs 219.5 crore to Rs 256.5 crore and their assets from Rs 1,614.9 crore to Rs 1,662.8 crores.

Official sources base these figures on the available data of only 141 branches and of 113 subsidiaries. Data were not available for the remaining of the 358 branches and 125 subsidiaries.

The turn-over of subsidiaries however, rose from Rs 2,488.1 crore in 1978 to Rs 2,547.0 crore in 1979, while that of the branches declined from Rs 1,280.1 crore to Rs 418.7 crore in 1979, the sources add.

FEW LICENCES

The country's top 20 industrial houses were granted 28 industrial licences in 1979 and 33 licences in 1980, adds UNI.

The largest number of licences—seven—were issued in 1980 to the Birlas, followed by the Kirloskars (five) and the Khataus (Bombay) (four), according to official statistics.

CSO: 4220

REPORT ON GANDHI'S 29 MAR SPEECH IN ORISSA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

BHUBANESWAR, March 29.

THE prime minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today warned that the ecology of a region and the way of life of the Adivasis should not be disturbed by the setting up of big industrial complexes in backward areas.

Mrs. Gandhi was addressing a large public meeting after laying the foundation stone of the Rs 1,042-crore alumina complex at Damanjodi, an Adivasi village in the interior of Koraput district, Orissa's chief minister, Mr. J. B. Patnaik, presided over the meeting.

The prime minister said, "While looking at the benefits of industrialisation today, we should not close our eyes to the future harm."

The authorities implementing this project should take care that the ecological balance of the region was not disturbed, she stated.

Mrs. Gandhi also asked the chief minister and the legislators to carefully ensure that natural environments were not affected and tribal life was left undisturbed.

Pointing out that tribal and backward regions had been bypassed in the past, Mrs. Gandhi said the benefits from the project's execution should flow to the local Adivasis and other weaker sections. While the project was aimed at the economic development of the country as a whole, it was also intended to improve the economic condition of the people in its vicinity.

Mrs. Gandhi adopted a three-language formula during her 25-minute speech at Damanjodi, in Koraput district.

She gave pride of place to Hindi by speaking in that language first. She then spoke in English and French. Among the large audience, comprising mostly Adivasis, were the French foreign trade minister, officials and industrialists from France.

Mr. J. B. Patnaik, summarised in Oriya Mrs. Gandhi's speech for the benefit of the local people.

UNI & PTI add:

The prime minister indicated an employment policy for the management of projects in tribal areas. She said that unskilled and semi-skilled jobs on projects in tribal districts should go to local people. She clarified that this was not "regionalism," but such a policy would ensure that the local people derived the full benefits of developmental activities.

She was particularly happy that the Damanjodi project was being executed with French assistance. The French foreign trade minister, Mr. Michel Cointat, was present on the rostrum designed like a tribal hut.

In her speech at Jagdalpur, in the Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh, where the earlier addressed a tribal gathering, Mrs. Gandhi pointed out the folly of cutting down forests destroying the ecological balance.

The tribals of Jagdalpur added to the official welcoming ceremonies there with their drum beats. This was Mrs. Gandhi's first visit to Bastar after coming back to power in the January 1980 general elections.

Mr. Michel Cointat described as a "symbol of promise and hope" the massive alumina-aluminium complex, being set up with the French technical and financial collaboration. The largest in Asia, the plant, when completed in 1983, would produce eight lakh tonnes of alumina.

The prime minister was accompanied by the Union commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and law minister, Mr. Shankaranand.

Two independent members of the Madhya Pradesh assembly joined the Congress (I) in the presence of Mrs. Gandhi.

The legislators were Mr. Sewan Jogeyya and Mr. Atma Ram Dhurve.

CSO: 4220/7439

RSS URGES NONPARTISAN LOOK AT RESERVATIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Nagpur, March 29 (PTI): The Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which concluded its three-day meeting here today, has suggested the setting up of a committee of nonpartisan social thinkers to study in depth all problems arising out of the reservations for Harijans and backward class people.

The sabha in a resolution said that the committee should recommend necessary concessions to the other economically backward sections for ensuring their speedy development.

The sabha felt "deeply perturbed" over the "explosive situation" in Gujarat and elsewhere arising out of the issue of reservation", the resolution added.

The resolution said that the RSS had been consistently endeavouring to arouse a spirit of oneness.

It also considered it necessary that reservations be continued for the present for bringing all those who had remained backward in the educational, social and economic fields on a par with the rest of society.

"Illwill Created"

The sabha felt that the policy of reservation had, because of its wrong implementation, become a tool of power-politics and election-tactics instead of serving the purpose for which it was formed. It had resulted in generating mutual illwill and conflict in society.

The sabha called upon all the people to be vigilant and expose and counteract all such subsersive and divisive moves.

It also drew attention to the foreign-inspired, disruptive movements, which have raised their heads in several parts of the country under the cover of the "sons of the soil" theory and were inciting hatred against other linguistic groups.

UNI adds: Prof. Rajendra Singh has been unanimously re-elected general secretary of the RSS for another three years.

He was declared elected by the pratinidhi sabha with the Delhi prant sangachalak, Mr. Hansraj Gupta, in the chair.

CSO: 4220/7439

CONGRESS(I) FACTION LEADER RAJASTHAN DEPUTY SPEAKER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

JAIPUR, March 28.

THE anti-Pahadia group within the Cong-I secured its first victory when they got Mr Ahmed Bux Sindhi elected for the Deputy Speakership.

Earlier, Transport Minister Hanuman Prasad Prabhakar announced the withdrawal of his notice in the House proposing Mr Taquiddin Ahmed's name for the post.

Mr Taquiddin was Mr Pahadia's choice, but the selection was not subscribed by a majority of the party members, who had approached the party high command and were successful in getting its mandate in favour of Mr Sindhi.

However, the election was unanimous as the Opposition demanded a division. In all there were seven proposals on the agenda, out of which two were withdrawn, including the one by Mr Prabhakar, and the other by Virendra Pratap Singh proposing Mr Yadunath Singh of the Lok Dal.

The proposal in favour of Mr Gopal Pacherwal of the Janata Party was finally put for vote. Mr Sindhi was elected by 116 votes against 39. The progressive group of the Opposition, reportedly voted for Mr Sindhi.

The Cong-I has a strength of 128 in the House, the BJP has 22, followed by Janata Party (eight), Lok Dal (seven), Progressive Group (nine), Cong-U (three) and CPI and CPI-M (one each) and two independents.

Mr Sindhi was elected to the Assembly on the Cong-I ticket from Jodhpur constituency.

CSO: 4220/7438

CONGRESS(U) LEADER SPEAKS AT DELHI PUBLIC MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Patna, March 15. Cong(U) leader Jagjivan Ram today called upon the people specially youths and intellectuals to rise and save the country from splitting.

Speaking at a public meeting at the Gandhi Maidan here today, former Deputy Prime Minister accused the Cong-I for putting the integrity of the country in danger by neglecting the interests of the Harijans, the minorities and the weaker sections of the society.

The current agitation in Gujarat, against reservation, Mr Ram said, was the work of the upper class people and the police was supporting them.

Mr Ram alleged that some political parties might be in favour of reservation, but the leaders were not in favour while speaking on the current Gujarat agitation.

He said that both the Harijans and the upper class people had similar capacity, but one rose in life while the other remained backward. He added that the contribution of the Muslims could not be forgotten. Mr Ram also accused the RSS for misleading the Harijans. He held the Cong-I government responsible for the price rise, deteriorating law and order situation, scarcity etc.

He accused Mrs Gandhi for not fulfilling the promises she had made before the elections. He said that she only cared for her chair and she was not interested in solving the problems of the State. He further said that either she lacked that capacity to rule or she deliberately neglected the interests of the people.

He alleged that there was widespread resentment among the people due to maladministration of the Cong-I. The present government could not even deal firmly with the police for fear that they might revolt and hence they were doing whatever they liked.

He alleged that the Cong-I did not allow the non-Congress-I government to be installed in Manipur and had put it under the President's rule. But like Manipur, the Assam ministry would also collapse, he said.

BPCC-U president Abdul Ghafoor presided over the meeting.

CSO: 4220

SCOPE FOR MORE TRADE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA CLAIMED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] There is considerable scope for expansion of India's trade with Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea, according to a FICCI delegation which visited these south east Asian countries from 10 to 24 February, reports PTI.

The process of industrialisation in these three countries had reached "a fairly advanced stage" and in respect of many products they could be both a market as well as a source of supply, the 12-member delegation says in a report prepared after the tour.

Also, there are opportunities for joint ventures and transfer of technology, particularly the one India has developed which is suitable to the needs of the developing countries.

The report says"it is expedient" that economic relations between India and these countries are strengthened to mutual advantage.

The report says "it is expe-three countries have different economic and political structures, there are a number of common features--they have shown exemplary growth, have been industrialising very fast, and have developed exports at a very rapid pace. [as published]

It says India and South Korea, both of which are actively engaged in the construction activity in West Asia and Africa, should form a consortium for construction projects to avoid unnecessary competition and reduce costs. This could be done by undertaking joint tendering and execution of projects, and complementary supplies of materials.

Both the countries could collaborate for setting up joint ventures with Korea providing technology for deep sea fishing and India putting up projects in textiles, engineering etc.

This subject found broad acceptance with Chinese businessmen in Hong Kong. Industries specially suited would include castings and forgings, sewing machines, bicycles, paper, diesel engines and transformers.

Indian companies can also raise funds on the Hong Kong, financial market. From the preliminary talks with the businessmen and bankers there, the report says, it appears that Indian companies should find a good access to Hong Kong's capital market to finance projects in India and other countries.

CSO: 4220

LAW MINISTER: 'TRANSFER OF JUDGES IN PUBLI INTEREST'

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Chandigarh, March 15--Union Law Minister Shiv Shanker has said that only a small minority was against the transfers of judges and the Centre would be guided by the wishes of the majority in the matter.

He was addressing the concluding session of the two-day Punjab, Hayana and Himachal young lawyers congress here today. Referring to the resolution passed at the conference during the implementation of the constitutional provisions regarding the transfers of the High Court judges, he said that there was a clarion call from the associations all over the country.

About the language problem in this matter, he said the judgements passed by the Englishmen on the Hindu laws, long time back are still considered to be the best and the language does not hamper the cause of justice.

He agreed with the president of the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association that the transfers will strengthen the fabric of national integration. He also agreed that a lot was required to better the service conditions of the judges.

Regarding the resolution calling for a change in the contempt of courts, Mr Shiv Shanker said that this required serious consideration.

The Minister said that in the present system only the people from the upper strata, having the right connections manipulated the higher posts in our judiciary. Is it not a shame on our economic and social justice that there were only four judges in the High Courts and one in the Supreme Court from the Scheduled Castes, who form the 25 per cent of the population of our country? Should the profession be the preserve of the people who come from the higher strata only, he asked.

CSO: 4220

LALDENGA IN DELHI AFTER TALKS WITH MIZO FRONT

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] New Delhi, March 28.--The leader of the Mizo National Front, Mr Laldenga, said on his arrival here tonight that the rank and file of the MNF had agreed to lay down arms once a solution was found to the Mizo problem within the framework of the Constitution, reports PTI.

Mr Laldenga told reporters at Calcutta airport on Saturday that the Mizo National Front had formulated its political demands which would be placed before the Union Government for its consideration.

The demands are radical, but they have been formulated keeping an eye to the Indian Constitution and are not harmful to the country's integrity". [as published]

Asked whether all the MNF members would surrender their arms, he said once the problem was solved and agreement reached, all of them would lay down their arms and come overground.

Replying to a question on his previous demand for a "free zone", he said that he had made that demand as long as he was not allowed to go to his headquarters. Now that he could go there, the question was no longer relevant. The MNF headquarters would be liquidated after the problem was solved.

Asked whether he had any difficulty in convincing the MNF members to agree to his proposal, Mr Laldenga said that it was the members who had made the proposal to which he had only agreed.

CSO: 4220/7435

CPI SECRETARY GENERAL RAO'S STATEMENT ON DANGE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] CPI general secretary C. Rajeswara Rao on Monday said that former party chairman S. A. Dange "has placed himself outside the pale of our party" by attending the "conference of splitters" (the AICP's Meerut conference).

The central executive committee of the CPI, which is to meet in Delhi from 28 March, will consider the matter and take appropriate steps, he added.

Mr Rao sharply criticized Mr Dange for "attacking the party and associating with the splitter group.

The following is the text of Mr Rao's statement:

"Comrade S. A. Dange attended the conference of the splitters held at Meerut and blessed it. He said that the formation of the All India Communist Party is 'a timely and historical necessity' and that it 'had at last found a way of success of national democratic revolution.' He repeated the slanderous attack of his daughter heading the group of splitters that the Communist Party of India has made Smt Indira Gandhi the main enemy and is joining hands with reactionary forces. He also stated that he attended the conference 'after taking into consideration all aspects.' His speech and the proceedings of the meeting have received wide publicity both in the press as well as Government media--the radio and TV.

"Through his statements attacking the party and associating with the splitter group, which is hand in glove with the ruling party, which is denouncing the struggles of the workers, middle-class employees, peasants and other sections of the people, he is only aiding the anti-people policies and measures of the Indira Gandhi Government.

"It is a slander to say that our party is ganging up with reactionary forces and that we have made Prime Minister Indira Gandhi the main enemy. Our policy is very clear. To set the record straight I would like to quote from the national council resolution adopted in October 1980 at Vijayawada, basing on our line of the Bhatinda party congress, which said.

'Our Party will pursue its independent line both in national and international spheres. While striving to unite the Left and democratic forces for a viable national alternative, the party will seek unity in action on the widest basis with all possible forces on such specific issues as anti-imperialism, anti-communalism, for self-reliance and national integration. There is no question, however, of any political alliance with the Congress I on the pretext of saving the country from anarchy and chaos or in defence of the progressive foreign policy. In this connection, it also requires to be reiterated that while fighting the anti-people and anti-democratic policies of the Indira Gandhi Government against reaction outside the ruling party. Our fight against the Indira Congress rule is with a radically different perspective and from our class position.'

"From the above, it is very clear that we are for cooperation with the ruling party also on the issues of our country's progressive foreign policy, against communalism, for self-reliance and national integration, but not for a political alliance with it. It is also clear that our party's opposition to the anti-people and anti-democratic policies of the Indira Gandhi Government has nothing to do with reaction outside the ruling party, but from a radically different perspective. Our party's practice amply shows that we are second to none in fighting reaction whether it be in Assam, Moradabad, Aligarh and other places.

"The splitters' contention that Mrs Indira Gandhi is pursuing an anti-monopoly and socialist orientation policies is a travesty of truth. Who does not know that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, while keeping broadly to the country's non-aligned foreign policy, is pursuing pro-monopoly, pro-big-trader policies in the internal sphere and suppressing the just struggles of the people with an iron hand? She attacks the Left and democratic parties which are rallying the working people and conducting their united struggles in defence of their just demands. She is the most skilful defender of the present crisis-ridden bourgeois system through pitting one section of the people against another.

"Comrade Dange's joining the conference of the splitters is the culmination of his activities in support of the splitters group led by his daughter. By attending their Meerut conference and attacking the party, Comrade Dange has placed himself outside the pale of our party. The central executive committee of our party, which is going to meet in Delhi from 28 March, 1981 will consider the matter and take appropriate steps."

CSO: 4220

REASONS FOR DANGE EXPULSION FROM CPI NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 16. Mr S. A. Dange, former chairman of the Communist Party of India and now a member of its national council, will be expelled from the party when its central executive meets on March 28, according to CPI sources.

The party general secretary, Mr Rajeswara Rao, gave an indication of this when he said today that by attending the Meerut conference of the All-India Communist Party led by Mrs Roza Deshpande. Mr Dange "has placed himself outside the pale of the party."

CPI circles are convinced that Mr Dange is allowing himself to be used by Mrs Indira Gandhi to "isolate and disrupt" their party. They assert that they have enough evidence to prove that the Meerut conference of the AICP was financed and organised by the Congress(I).

The view of these circles is that the Meerut conference is part of Mrs Gandhi's "grand design" to first isolate the CPI and then split it up and this is clear from the series of steps she has taken. The direction given by her that no Congress(I) member should associate himself with the CPI-sponsored pro-Soviet organisation were aimed at isolating the party.

"Slanderous Attack"

The decision that any "friendship organisation" taking financial help from a foreign country should obtain the permission of the external affairs ministry is also suspected to be a ploy to cut off support for the CPI-sponsored organisations.

Mr Rajeswara Rao has taken serious note of Mr Dange repeating the "slanderous attack of his daughter, heading the group of splitters, that the CPI has made Mrs Indira Gandhi the main enemy and is joining hands with reactionary forces."

He said it was a slander to say that the CPI was "ganging up with reactionary forces" and pointed out that in the Vijayavada national council resolution the party had emphatically stated that "while fighting the anti-people and anti-democratic policies of the Indira Gandhi government, we must not relax our fight against reaction outside the ruling party."

Further, Mr Rajeswara Rao pointed out, the resolution had clearly stated that "while striving to unite the left and democratic forces for a viable national alternative, the party will seek unity in action on the widest basis with all possible forces on such specific issues as anti-imperialism, anti-communalism, for self-reliance and national integration."

"The splitters' contention that Mrs Gandhi is pursuing anti-monopoly and socialist orientation policies is a travesty of truth. Who does not know that the Prime Minister, while keeping broadly to the country's nonaligned foreign policy, is pursuing pro-monopoly, pro-big trader policies in the internal sphere and suppressing the just struggle of the people with an iron hand? She is the most skillful defender of the present crisis-ridden bourgeois system though pitting one section of the people against another."

CSO: 4220

DANGE LETTER TO CPI LEADER RAO RELEASED TO PRESS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Bombay, March 28.--Even as the sword of expulsion was hanging over the head of the former CPI chairman Mr S. A. Dange today, he came out with an open rejoinder to the party general secretary, Mr C. Rajeswara Rao, charging him with conspiracy to "liquidate the CPI".

In a letter to Mr Rao, which he released to the Press here today in defiance of party discipline, Mr Dange alleged that it was a part of Mr Rao's conspiracy with the CPI(M) to expel him (Mr Dange) from the party.

In his letter, the founder of the CPI has questioned Mr Rao's credentials to take action against him and has reiterated that "I have committed no offence, in party terms and I express no regrets for anything."

The Central Executive Committee of the CPI is beginning its three-day meeting today in Delhi in which the issue of Mr Dange's expulsion is certain to be decided. A party emissary arrived here yesterday carrying Mr Rao's letter accusing Mr Dange of identifying himself with the "splitters" by speaking at the AICP conference in Meerut and attacking the CPI. Mr Rao had asked Mr Dange to clarify his position.

A seven-page rejoinder, sent by Mr Dange through the same emissary this morning to Mr Rao, was released here. Mr Dange has said in the letter that since the contents of Mr Rao's letter were published in the Press even before he got it, he was also releasing his rejoinder to the Press.

The release of the letter has shocked Communist circles here. The sensational part of Mr Dange's letter is his open charge that Mr Rao was out to liquidate the CPI in order to placate the CPI(M). Mr Rao held secret talks of unity with the CPI(M) in which the latter had demanded, among many other things, that Mr Dange be expelled since it would not accept him even as an ordinary member. Mr Dange said in the letter that the CPI(M) had asked Mr Rao to cut the declared membership of the CPI at least by half to which Mr Rao had agreed.

"My expulsion for attending what you call a splitters' conference is one of the by-products of your conspiracy to liquidate the CPI. But despite your conspiracy, the CPI will live and grow," the octogenarian Communist leader said.

Citing another example of Mr Rao's efforts to liquidate the CPI, Mr Dange said he had been consistently avoiding initiating any all-India mass struggles independently on the strength of the party lest the CPI(M) should be displeased.

Mr Dange wondered how Mr Rao could accuse him of associating with "splitters" when Mr Rao himself was actually conspiring with the CPI(M) who had really split the party. As for the All-India Communist Party whose session he attended in Meerut, Mr Dange said most leaders of the AICP were "expelled" by Mr Rao who had been actually encouraging and honouring the "real splitters".

Mr Dange reiterated that he stood by his analysis of Mrs Gandhi. Was it a crime to say "some good things" about Mrs Gandhi? he asked. What about the CPI praising the regime of Mr Charan Singh when he was in power? Mr Dange asked. He has dared Mr Rao to go ahead if the latter wanted to expel him. Many secretaries before had tried to do that and then had repented. "I know you will not repent. Only you will go down the drain of West Bengal more easily" he remarked.

In an unrepressed burst of temper, Mr Dange has said in the letter: "I am saying all this to tell you and all comrades that your are an evil genius of the party and somehow you succeeded in climbing to the top to do your satanic work of freezing or killing the party and party members who try to expose your wrong policies and actions."

From the tone of the letter, observers believe that Mr Dange is almost certain to be expelled from the party which he himself had founded 60 years ago. This in itself will be a historic happening in the Communist movement in the country.

Observers also believe that Mr Dange's exit from the party may not cause an immediate split in the party ranks because, as it is, Mr Dange is in the minority. However, this would substantially weaken the party because of the inactivity of cadres stemming from the polemics at the leadership level. Already, the dissensions in the leadership has extracted a heavy cost from the CPI, it is pointed out.

The cause of trouble in the CPI today is Mr Dange's assessment of Mrs Gandhi as the leader of democratic bourgeoisie and his active support to her policies. Mr Dange is also strongly opposed to unity with the CPI(M). His supporters believe that while Mr Dange has been consistent in his assessment of Mrs Gandhi, the CPI had been swinging from one end to another in this regard and every time Mr Dange's assessment had been victimised.

CSO: 4220/7435

DANGE EXPULSION MAY GIVE CPI FURTHER TROUBLES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 29.

THE CPI central executive today formally decided that Mr. S. A. Dange, 82-year-old former chairman and one of the founder-members of the party, should be expelled.

A resolution to this effect will be drafted by the party secretariat to be placed before the party's national council meeting due for April 12 in Delhi for its approval.

The impact of this decision on the CPI cannot be assessed yet, but it is likely that it will lead to a second split in the party in quick succession after the breakaway of the group led by Mr. Dange's daughter, Mrs Rosa Deshpande, to form the All-India Communist Party.

Although Mr. Dange had lost control of the party over the issue of support to Mrs Indira Gandhi, he continued to enjoy sizable following in some states like Maharashtra and West Bengal, especially among the trade unionists. It is possible that this group will now walk out of the party.

Despite the series of attempts by the present leadership of the party, led by the general secretary, Mr. Rajeswara Rao, to disgrace Mr. Dange ultimately leading to his expulsion, the octogenarian leader will continue to pose a problem for the CPI.

The Rajeswara Rao group, by its continued opposition to Mrs. Gandhi's rule, has placed itself in a particularly difficult situation and has caused not the least embarrassment to the Soviet Union. Mrs. Gandhi has made it quite clear that she would not view with equanimity the Soviet Union's continued support for the CPI so long as it maintained its opposition role.

This is quite obvious from her backing the formation of the "Friends of the Soviet Union" as a rival to the CPI-backed "friendship" organisations. She has also taken steps to see that the CPI-sponsored organisations do not easily get material support from Moscow.

Mr. Dange, who is a recipient of the Order of Lenin, the highest Soviet award granted by the presidium of the Supreme Soviet, will now add his weight to the "communist" supporters of Mrs. Gandhi and prevent to Moscow, which is committed to supporting Mrs. Gandhi's government, the choice of backing either these groups or the CPI.

However, Mr. Rajeswara Rao had hardly any choice, but to recommend Mr. Dange's expulsion after his open defiance of the "party discipline". A press release of the CPI said that Mr. Dange's "attack against the party, its programme and policies as well as his anti-party activities in aid of the reorganise" proved to be the last straw.

The reference was obviously to his attending the AICP conference in Meerut. It said that Mr. Dange, in his reply to the charges by Mr. Rao had not only sought to justify all his impermissible behaviour and anti-party actions, including his open association with the splitting activities directed against the party, but he also resorted to "lies and distortions, slanders and provocations". The "insolent" reply said was an attack on the party.

Mr Dange had, in his reply to Mr. Rao, asked the general secretary to "go ahead and do what you like." He also released the reply to the press.

CSC. 4220/7439

VAJPAYEE: BJP AGAINST OVERTHROW OF BENGAL FRONT

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, president, Bharatiya Janata Party, said in Calcutta on Saturday that the BJP would never support the overthrow of the Left Front Government in West Bengal before its term by the Centre. He said the party stood by its principles unlike the CPI(M).

Mr Vajpayee, who was addressing public meeting at the Sahid Minar Maidan said that while the CPI(M) always declared its intention to fight the autocratic Prime Minister, the party had supported the Congress (I) Government in Assam. The BJP would fight the CPI(M) in every corner of West Bengal, but would resist the illegal dismissal of the Left Front Government.

Mr Vajpayee claimed that the BJP was the only party which could give the people both economic and political freedom. There was no basic difference between the Congress (I) and the CPI(M). There might be a difference of degree. While the head of the Government in Delhi thought about her family, the other in West Bengal was only concerned about his party.

He stated that the BJP was capable of chalking out a new road, a third path for the people. The party stood for individual freedom as well as the people's right to lead a decent life.

He said neither the Government at the Centre nor those in the States were effective. There was no security for the common man even in the capital. Prices of all commodities were increasing and there was an indication that the inflation would reach the level of 15% annually.

He urged the Centre to hold talks with the leaders of the agitation in Assam. He said the BJP did not want to make political capital out of the critical situation in Assam. But infiltration of foreigners both in Assam and West Bengal should be stopped.

Mr Haripada Bharati, who presided, presented to Mr Vajpayee a bank draft of Rs 5.11 lakhs collected by party workers in West Bengal. He announced that Mr Amiya Bose, former Indian Ambassador to Burma and former member of Parliament, had joined the BJP.

CSO: 4220/7435

ASSAM BOMB EXPLOSIONS ATTRIBUTED TO 'AGENTS'

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

SHILLONG, March 29 (UNI, PTI) — UNION Home Minister Zail Singh today attributed the bomb explosions in various parts of Assam to "agents provocateurs".

The Centre had information that three bomb explosions were the handiwork of those agents who wanted to spread chaos in the State, he told a press conference at the Raj Bhavan here.

He, however, declined to elaborate as to who these "agents" were and for whom they were working.

Mr Zail Singh said the Centre was contemplating additional measures to seal the India-Bangladesh border to check infiltration of foreigners into Assam and other parts of the northeastern region.

In addition to the two battalions of the Border Security Force which had been raised for the region, two more were planned, he said.

Earlier, addressing the jawans officers of the BSF at the force's regional headquarters here, Mr Zail Singh said some undesirable elements had entered the police forces in the country but the BSF and other paramilitary organisations still maintained their standard.

Mr Zail Singh said the Centre was considering the appointment of two Governors for the five north-eastern States in consultation with the Chief Ministers.

BSF Director-General K Ramamurthy, who accompanied the Home Minister, advised his men to mix with local people living along the borders and work for their betterment. This would earn the force a name they do not be said.

CSO: 4220/7443

CPI CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION OF DANGE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Mar 81 pp 1, 7

[Text]

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of India on Sunday recommended to its National Council the expulsion of Mr S A Dange, one of the founders of the party, reports UNI.

The CEC at the end of its four-day meeting, said the action had been taken against Mr Dange for his "persistent defiance and violation of all party discipline and for his splitting and other anti-party activities."

Meanwhile, the National Council has been summoned to meet from 12 to 16 April to consider the recommendation for Mr Dange's expulsion.

The CEC directed the party's Central Secretariat to prepare an appropriate draft resolution for this purpose for consideration and adoption by the National Council.

A resolution adopted by the CEC said:

"The CPI has considered Comrade S A Dange's participation at the conference of the renegades, who call themselves the All-India Communist Party at Meerut and his speeches there. It has also considered his reply to the letter of the general secretary, Comrade C Rajeswara Rao, dated 24 March, 1981, to him in which Comrade Dange's flagrant violation of party discipline, his attack against the party, its programme, policies and his anti-party activities in aid of the renegades were nailed down. Comrade Dange was requested to state in writing whatever he had to say for the Central executive to consider.

"In his reply of 27 March, 1981, not only has comrade Dange sought to justify all his impermissible behaviour and anti-party actions, including his open association with the splitting activities directed against the party, but he has also resorted to a tissue of lies and another round of distortions, slanders and provocations. Indeed the insolent reply is itself an attack against the party which is obviously intended to serve its enemies. No wonder that even without waiting for the secretariat and the CEC to consider his so-called reply, Comrade S A Dange has released it to the press.

"Comrade S A Dange's 'reply' not only proves the validity of general secretary Comrade C Rajeswara Rao's statement of 18 March in which it was said that 'Comrade Dange has placed himself outside the pale of our party', the 'reply' leaves in no doubt that, far from repenting or returning to the ways of the party, Comrade S A Dange is set on pursuing his splitting and other anti-party activities in collaboration with his daughter Roza Deshpande and other splitters who had declared Comrade S A Dange as their leader from the outset, and whom he is in fact misleading in their activities in the service of the Cong-I rule against the party and the left and democratic movement."

CSO: 4220/7443

OVERSEAS INDIANS SEEK SEPARATE UNION MINISTRY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 Mar 81 p 8

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM, March 29 (UNI) —Indian immigrants in the Gulf, whose annual remittances go to bolster the nation's depleting foreign exchange resources, have asked for the creation of a separate Union Ministry to attend speedily to their problems.

In a memorandum, drawn up by the representatives of the Kerala Muslim cultural centres in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, and presented to the Centre through the State Governor the immigrants also demanded that they be provided facilities to vote.

They suggested that each Indian embassy in the Gulf region should set up a cutural centre with a library and a community hall. With facilities to enable the expatriates to do correspondence courses with a view to improving their job prospects.

They wanted the embassies to be empowered to deal with the local governments and employers and secure adequate compensation for affected immigrant workers in the event of premature termination of contract by accident.

It was suggested that each embassy should have at least one responsible official with a knowledge of Malayalam as the majority of the immigrants spoke Malayalam.

In discussing the problems encountered by immigrants with regard to travel and customs clearance, they demanded a reduction in the air fares and the establishment of an international airport at Kozhikode.

They wanted the customs duty to be lowered from 320 p.c. to 120 p.c. and the freight allowance to be raised to goods worth Rs 2,000 in the case of passengers who were away for one year and Rs 5,000 in the case of those away for two years.

Drawing the Government's attention to a growing tendancy among expatriate employees to invest their savings in foreign banks which offered far more favourable terms than banks in India, they send "The Government must analyse the reasons and take necessary measures to attract them to Indian banks."

They asked the Central and State Governments to encourage Indians abroad to establish industries by providing them the necessary facilities.

It was suggested that arrangements might be made to enable the expatriates to cast their votes through the embassies as in the case of officials posted abroad.

The other demands outlined in the memorandum included construction of housing colonies for families of Indians abroad priority in allocation of cement to them against remittances from abroad and reservation of seats in educational institutions for their children.

CSO: 4220/7443

CPI EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION LAUDS KISAN RALLY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Mar 81 p 8

[Text] The CPI Central Executive Committee has hailed the resounding success of the 25 March peasants and agricultural workers' demonstration in the Capital notwithstanding the obstructionist moves of the Congress-I Central and State Governments and public opposition of Lok Dal leader Charan Singh.

In a resolution, the CEC (now in session in the Capital) on Monday congratulated the CPI units for having worked vigorously for the demonstration despite shortage of time and resources "because of which the CPI-led All-India Kisan Sabha and the Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union could contribute the biggest contingent" in it.

It extended special greetings to the CPI Committees of Bihar, UP, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for the success of the demonstration.

"The united massive demonstration would have been much bigger but for the fact that the Congress-I Governments obstructed the peasants and agricultural workers from coming to Delhi by all possible means, including dragging people from the trains, lathi-charges and obstructing trucks from reaching Delhi because of which many of them were stranded at various railway stations and roads."

The demonstration was fitting rebuff to Congress-I propaganda (on the basis of the 16 February "Government-organised Kisan Rally") that the people were with Mrs Gandhi, it said.

It underscored that the CPI had "from the beginning, worked successfully for the exclusion of the communal chauvinist forces like the BJP from the Central Kisan Coordination Committee or in this demonstration."

Highlighting the fact that the 26 March demonstration had been actively supported by the working class and employees, the resolutions instructed the party units to carry forward the message of united struggle to peasants and agricultural workers "for facing the onslaught of the Congress-I Governments, reactionary chauvinist forces and reactionary vested interests."

It was necessary to simultaneously take up the demands of remunerative prices and debt relief for peasants, minimum wages, guaranteed employment scheme, old-age

pension and land for agricultural workers and a well-organised public distribution system for the entire people.

"Party units in unity with other parties, trade unions and other mass organisations should agitate for the establishment of a public distribution system.

They should demand the establishment of Government shops in villages and areas in towns. Where there are shops, the party units should intervene and agitate for ensuring that all essential commodities are made available and for their proper functioning." [as published]

CSO: 4220/7444

NEW DELHI LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SWORN IN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Mar 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Former Union Home Secretary Sunder Lal Khurana was sworn in as the new Lt-Governor of the Union Territory of Delhi at a function held at Raj Niwas on Monday. Delhi High Court Chief Justice Prakash Narain administered the oath of office and secrecy.

Earlier, Delhi Administration Chief Secretary S D Srivastava read out the warrant of appointment of Mr Khurana as the Lt-Governor of the Capital, issued by President Sanjiva Reddy.

Talking to newsmen at his first press conference, Mr Khurana stressed that the administration would henceforth accord 'top priority' to the law and order situation in the Capital. Mr Khurana said that though the crime graph had registered a declining trend since last year, there was still need to activise the police machinery in the Capital.

The new Lt-Governor felt that effective measures had to be taken to curb the rising menace of the anti-social elements and the 'disturbing trend of the dwindling respect for the law.' Steps to expedite the investigation of the pending cases in police would be taken, he added.

Mr Khurana said that more efficient measures would be taken in the public distribution system to ensure availability of essential commodities to the citizens. Besides, a rigorous supervision on these outlets, he said, that 30 per cent more fair price shops would be opened in the Capital.

The administration, Mr Khurana claimed would resort to stringent measures against all those who indulge in black marketeering, hoarding and misusing ration cards.

Assuring the citizens of better service, Mr. Khurana said that a cell would be opened for redressal of public grievances and he would also ensure that officials give patient hearing to complainants. He also urged the people not to agitate for the sake of agitation as it led to a considerable loss of valuable time for the police.

The forthcoming Asian Games, the Lt-Governor said was a prestigious issue for the country and he would ensure that all the constructions were completed well in time.

Mr Khurana (born 1919) in Jhung district in West Pakistan entered the civil service in 1943. During his 34 years of service Mr Khurana occupied various important posts. He was Home Secretary in the Central Government from June 1975 till his retirement in March 1977.

A large number of distinguished persons including local members of Parliament, were present at the oath-taking ceremony.

Mr Khurana was welcomed with shehnai, band and bhangra at Vasant Vihar by Nehru Brigade volunteers led by their convener Ramesh Datta.

Former Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi Mr Devki Nandan has urged Mr Khurana to institute an inquiry against the people responsible for making purchases on behalf of the education department.

In a statement, Mr Devki Nandan alleged that a lot of money had been squandered by the Education Department while purchasing equipment for schools.

CSO: 4220/7444

JAMMU, KASHMIR REFUGEES THREATEN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Mar 81 p 4

[Text]

ABOUT 40,000 refugees from West Pakistan, staying in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, have threatened to launch a civil disobedience movement if the State Government did not grant them full citizenship rights immediately, reports UNI.

The refugees, who migrated to the State in 1947, have been denied the rights guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. This, they claim, had caused them immense hardship.

A six-member delegation of the West Pakistani refugees action committee met Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on 26 and 27 March to draw her attention towards their problems.

Mrs Gandhi reportedly told the delegation that the Government was alive to their problem. She said the Centre will soon get in touch with the State Government and "request them for a solution".

Mr Barhan Lal Kalgotra, chairman, West Pakistani Refugee Action Committee, told UNI Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah had not granted permanent residents status to them despite repeated promises and assurances.

"We appeal to the Central Government and the country on the whole to come to our rescue and help us out of the inhuman conditions in which we are living", Mr Kalgotra said.

Mr Kalgotra, who demanded an amendment in the J and K Constitution, said, contrary to the statements by the Sheikh, "the citizenship rights (permanent residentship) can be granted to us by the amendment of Section Six of the Constitution."

"The uncalled for statements of the Sheikh and his partymen about Section 370 is an attempt to create a wrong impression that citizenship rights cannot be granted without abrogating the said section", Mr Kalgotra said.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the refugees are denied even the voting right for the Assembly, panchayat and municipal elections. They can, however, vote during elections to Parliament.

Mr Kalgotra said in the State Government records the refugees are mentioned as 'Pakistanis'. Their children are denied admission to the degree and professional colleges of the State and "as a result none of us can aspire to have education beyond matric", he added.

"Though some of the refugees have been allotted evacuee lands on an ad hoc basis, further allotment has been banned through the State Cabinet order number 371(C), Mr Kalgotra claimed. He said the refugees were hard put to earn their livelihood as "we cannot purchase immovable property, including even a house".

All this, Mr Kalgotra said, forced about 6,000 refugees to cross the border on 8 March this year and submit a memorandum to Pakistan President Zia-ul-Haq, demanding rehabilitation in Pakistan.

CSO: 4220/7444

SUMMARY OF GANDHI'S 18 MARCH SPEECH TO ICFTU

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Mar 81 pp 1,7

[Text] The UN development decades have brought "only disappointment," Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi said on Wednesday, reports PTI.

Inaugurating the world conference of International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), she added that though problems had been identified and remedies outlined by various commissions, international conference had so far yielded "little tangible action."

Again, she said, international trade had become "a needle's eye through which the heavily-laden camels of affluent countries can pass smoothly but not the thread of the developing countries."

Yet we cannot and must not despair. Our efforts must be redoubled to quicken the hearts and minds of the more sensitive of the affluent countries and among these I count trade union leaders such as you, she said.

The Prime Minister pointed out that while the rich countries cited the interests of workers in support of their decisions to restrict imports from developing countries, studies by the ILO, UNCTAD and the World Bank had all shown that job displacement in rich countries by the expansion of exports from developing countries was "minimal."

Mrs Gandhi told the conference co-sponsored by ICFTU and INTUC, that developing countries had 73 per cent of the world's population and 69 per cent of the work-force. Asia alone accounted for 56 per cent.

It was estimated, Mrs Gandhi said, that in about six years, six out of every 10 workers in the world would be in Asia, one in western Europe, one in Africa, one in USSR and one in the Americas.

"Such figures reveal how important it is to give more remunerative wages to these six out of 10, and to lessen the burdens on them. We are merely asking for a similar reduction of disparities in the international community as a whole," she said.

Mrs Gandhi declared that India was "deeply committed" to social justice and in no conditions would it use its workers as was done in the West a century ago.

Despite the wealth of their colonies at their disposal, there was the worst kind of exploitation in the West at the time of the "industrial revolution," with appalling living conditions of workers, women and children.

"To prescribe the norms currently prevalent in affluent countries to those who are struggling against tremendous odds, renders development vastly more difficult and even threatens stability. With such enormous leeway to make up our countries now find themselves caught in the spiral of rising costs of wages, capital goods, and know-how," she said.

She said, that India did not ask international workers organisations and international agencies not to press their own ideas of fair labour practices on developing country. But, there could be no two opinions about the need to ensure safety, health and human dignity.

/Expressing her belief in freedom of expression and organisation and absence of any curbs against the functioning of Trade Unions, the Prime Minister, however, pointed out that power of organised unions had caused some "distortions."/ [in boldface]

Workers, she said, were entitled to a living wage but a living wage was a relative and not an absolute concept. It had to be computed according to the realities of circumstances.

Mrs Gandhi said that with unemployment in most countries today, the problem was "far more critical" when Governments could not afford to give doles or other relief measures.

"Should not job creation have priority? Can resources be earmarked to improve pay scales of the better paid among our workers in place of investment in new labour-intensive and employment creating projects?" she asked.

The Prime Minister described the multiplicity of trade unions with different political ideologies as a "serious problem and said that some of them were more concerned with enlarging their own hold."

She called upon the "enlightened" trade union leadership to "kindle social consciousness" and make workers aware of the problems of the less favoured sections within the working classes as one of their principle responsibilities.

Strongly pleading for "enthusiastic" participation of labour in development process and upgrading of technology, Mrs Gandhi said that not only labour but technology was the source of wealth.

She called for efforts to develop technology within, for solid and sustained progress could come only with self-reliant technology. Technology, whether imported or home-grown, required capital which was sometimes in the form of external aid.

But, she pointed out, it was not possible for a vast country like India to obtain from anywhere outside all the capital it required. Capital too had to be mobilised from the savings of the people.

"We in India have largely financed our development out of our domestic savings," she said.

She referred to India's sixth Plan and said that only six per cent of it would be financed by external assistance--which in per capita terms was one of the lowest.

The Prime Minister expressed her satisfaction over the fact that the idea that developing countries could learn much from one another's experiences was gradually gaining acceptance and there was considerable necessity and scope for what was called "South-South dialogue to run alongside with the North-South one."

"There are no universal panaceas. Each country needs vision, competent and dynamic leadership and above all a determination to be self-reliant. It is for this we want international sympathy and programmes of concrete cooperation," she said.

The conference is being attended by nearly 200 delegates from all over the world representatives of ILO and various other international agencies and trade union bodies.

CSO: 4220

LAW MINISTER: PARLIAMENT CAN AMEND STATUTES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

THE Government has reaffirmed that it is not in favour of abridging the right of Parliament to amend the Constitution in any manner.

Union Law Minister Shiv Shankar told the Consultative Committee of members of Parliament attached to his Ministry that the Government did not accept the proposition that there were any restraints on the constituent power of Parliament to amend the Constitution.

The Minister stressed that the Government had no intention of making changes in the Constitution which would do away with its secular and democratic character but did feel it should bind down future Parliaments by amending the statute to categorically ban such changes.

Mr Shiv Shankar rejected suggestions made by Mr Bapusaheb Parulekar and others that the statute should be so amended that in future no one could change the basic character of federalism, freedom of the individual, secularism and security which were in the Constitution.

The Law Minister referred to the judgment of the Supreme Court in various cases such as the Keshavanad Bharati case and said these decisions were good Law as on today. The Government however, had filed a miscellaneous petition for the reconsideration of the judgment.

The Government he said, had also indicated its stand in Parliament's last session that the 'basic features' theory deserved to be reconsidered.

Members demanded that specific points made in various Supreme Court judgments having a bearing on the basic structure of the Constitution, as also references of debates on Article 368 (amending powers of the Constitution) in the Constituent Assembly be made available to them.

Among those present at the meeting were Mr H N Mishra, Mr Ramanna Rai, Mr N K Shejwalkar, Mr Bapusaheb Parulekar, Mr Ramesh Dubey, Mr Harish Chandra Singh Rawat and Mr Jagannath Kaushal from the Lok Sabha and Mr V P Nanda and Mr S C Mohanta from the Rajya Sabha. Mr M R Shervani of the Rajya Sabha was present on special invitation.

CSO: 4220

BENGAL LEFT FRONT LEADERS SPEAK AT RALLY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Mar 81 pp 1,9

[Text] In a scathing attack on Mrs Gandhi and the Congress(I), Mr Jyoti Basu told the Left Front rally at the Brigade Parade ground, Calcutta on Sunday that when the Congress(I) talked of toppling the Left Front Government, it unconsciously paid a compliment to what "we have achieved in the past four years. Had the Left Front moved away from the people of the State, our removal would never have been demanded."

The Congress(I) could not oust the Left Front through the elections and therefore the "reactionaries and the authoritarian forces are alarmed," Mr Basi said. When Mrs Gandhi and her party men talked of removing the Left Front Government, they were not thinking of West Bengal alone but of the State's influence on other States. The Front's achievements in West Bengal had filtered to other States where people had started asking why they should put up with disorder. "Allowing us to continue would be dangerous for Mrs Gandhi and her party men."

From the unemployment allowance to pension for peasants, the Left Front had gone about improving the lot of the poor systematically while there had been all-around deterioration in many States. Mr Basi said, "Had the Congress(I) not been alarmed we would have had to worry about being on the wrong path."

Mr Basi said that though the Election Commissioner was supposed to be impartial, the by-elections to Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies in West Bengal were being delayed when all other States had completed them. The Election Commissioner was supposed to inform the State Government about the by-elections on Sunday. "We will have to wait and see what happens."

Talk of toppling the Left Front was nothing new, Mr Basu said. It had been making the rounds since the Congress(I) had come to power at the Centre in 1980. "Why is it so," he asked. "We have been elected for five years. If the people re-elect us we will stay, if not, we will go."

The Congress(I) had been demanding the removal of the Left Front. While some wanted it in May the others said it ought to be done in June this year. "Do they sit with almanacs or resort to palm reading?" Mr Basu asked. Whenever Mrs Gandhi was asked, she claimed that she had never toppled any elected Government. "She has probably forgotten."

Referring to Mrs Gandhi's party Mr Basu alleged that it was full of "goondas and anti-socials. How can anyone allow them to be in power in the State?" The Centre had put people with black money on pedestals by allowing them to invest in Special Bearer Bonds. How could such a party fight corruption when it was full of "thieves and frauds," he asked.

Mr Basu was critical of the "section of people" who had been opposing the Left Front's decision to abolish English from the primary stage. "Where were these people in the 1970's when there was anarchy in educational institutions?" He accused them of making wild statement and wondered what they really wanted.

While the rest of the country was in turmoil, Mrs Gandhi was worrying about the "terrible goings-on in the educational field in West Bengal," Mr Basu said.

Mr Basu told the people to organize rallies in the districts, since holding rallies in Calcutta alone would serve little purpose. He reminded the gathering that the day's rally had not been called because "we are alarmed, but to make you aware of the conspiracy being hatched against the Left Front."

Mr Promode Dasgupta, chairman of the Left Front Committee, said people in West Bengal would not tolerate the attempts by the Congress(I) to bring back anarchy in the State. He was confident that the people would resist the Centre's bid to topple the Left Front Government.

Mr Dasgupta said he was surprised at the "unreasonable demands" being made by the "so-called intellectuals" who were agitating against the Left Front's decision to abolish English from the primary stage. While everyone had a right to agitate, the Front could not allow a handful of people to "misguide" others.

After years of being exploited by rich landowners the rural people had started to think of their rights and the Congress(I) felt that there was anarchy in the rural areas, Mr Dasgupta said.

The Congress(I) had accused the Left Front Government of having rigged the electoral rolls and demanded that impartial people be brought over from other States to compile fresh voters' lists in West Bengal. "Has the Left Front ever been in power during an election," he asked. The Congress(I) had also demanded that the Front be removed before the elections, he said. "Let all the Governments in other State's resign too, and let us see what happens." Mr Dasgupta alleged that the Congress(I) was taking recourse to false propaganda to misguide the people in West Bengal.

Mr Makhan Pal of the RSP said the Congress(I) could not tolerate the Left Front being in power. He reminded the people that this was not 1967. "This is 1981 and people in West Bengal are aware of what is going on." He warned the Centre that there would be serious repercussions if there was a move to topple the Left Front.

Mr Ashok Ghosh of the Forward Bloc said West Bengal was an eyesore to Mrs Gandhi. He reminded people that the Left Front was not in power because of

an act of kindness by her. Referring to Mr S.A. Dange's allegation that the Left Front was aiding capitalists, he said nothing could be farther from the truth.

Traffic in central Calcutta was dislocated on Sunday afternoon when processions converged on the Brigade Parade ground. Many had to walk to the city from Howrah station because of traffic jams on Howrah bridge. In the evening, when the meeting was over, vehicular traffic in the Esplanade area was in disarray.

CSO: 4220

CONGRESS, JANATA PARTIES ALLY AGAINST BENGAL FRONT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Calcutta, March 18. The Congress-I, Congress-U and the Janata Party have agreed to fight the coming Municipal elections unitedly against the CPM-led Left Front alliance.

The district leadership of the three parties have already taken steps to make this combination effective.

Either Mr Asoke Sen, MP or Mr Ajit Panja, PCC-I president will lead the Congress-I election battle. A clear picture is likely to emerge on 20 March when important leaders of the party meet.

The Congress-U leadership in the State is holding a meeting of all its district leaders later here today. The meeting will finalise the party's decision in regard to the Municipal elections.

The Congress-U wants Calcutta and Howrah also to be included in the election programme. According to a party spokesman, Calcutta and Howrah were not being included because, in the last Lok Sabha election the CPM "got a drubbing in the segments covered by these two cities. In Calcutta, the CPM was defeated by a overwhelming majority of 100 wards in the city."

Janata Party leader P. C. Sen has publicly welcomed the proposal for an anti-CPM platform.

PTI adds:

About 9.8 million voters will elect civic bodies in 90 municipalities of the state in a single day polling. The voting age has been lowered to 18 years.

Alleging that the voters list being prepared was already rigged, Mr Ajit Panja, president of West Bengal Pradesh Congress (I), in a letter to Mr Arun Sen, secretary, Local Self Government, expressed his apprehension that elections would not be fair and free.

Citing an instance of "irregularity," Mr Panja claimed in his letter that against 1,20,365 voters in the Assembly constituency of Manicktola, the number shown in the list prepared for the Municipal poll was 84,850, despite a lowering of the age.

The ruling Left front partners, meanwhile, have begun preparing for the coming poll.

The major partner, CPI-M, has already instructed its district committees to hold discussions with the RSP and Forward Bloc units in this including selection of Front candidates, according to Front sources.

West Bengal CPI unit secretary Biswanath Mukherjee said his party would consider the proposal of CPI-M to form a joint citizens committee to fight the elections.

CSO: 4220

BANGLADESH VISITORS 'OVERSTAYING' IN WEST BENGAL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Mar 81 pp 1,9

[Text] Over 2,00,000 out of about 1.2 million Bangladesh nationals who came to West Bengal since 1972 till December, 1980 with passports and visas did not return to Bangladesh, according to West Bengal Government sources. Most of them are untraceable and have exceeded the period of stay granted in their visas.

The West Bengal Government admits that the problem has already assumed "alarming proportions." If the present passport and visa rules applicable to Bangladesh nationals are not immediately changed and tightened, the problem will soon reach an "unmanageable level." The State is apprehensive that if the Centre does not take a quick decision on the matter as the enforcing authority of passport and other related regulations, it will be burdened with serious administrative and other responsibilities.

While most of the Bangladesh nationals are Hindus, the Muslims also form a sizable number--about 60,000. Although there is no official count of how many Bengali and non-Bengali Muslims are overstaying in West Bengal, according to a rough estimate, about 50% are Biharis who managed to secure passports from the Bangladesh Government and visas from the Indian High Commissions in Bangladesh. Many of them officials say, are being protected by a prominent Left Front leader who is trying his best to get them enumerated in the current Census as Indian nationals.

According to the police, the other 50% of the Muslims are Bengalis who have relatives, friends and "contacts" in West Bengal. The police say that there has been a sudden and phenomenal increase in the number of Bangladesh nationals overstaying in India since last year, when as many as 53,000 of them stayed back though their visas had expired long ago. Another interesting feature is that the number of Muslims overstaying in West Bengal rose sharply in 1979 and 1980 when 8,000 and 14,000 stayed back, against the annual average staying between 2,000 and 4,000 between 1972 and 1978.

State Government officials say that Bangladesh nationals coming to India with valid travel documents for a stay of up to 180 days do not have to register themselves with the Foreigners' Registration Office or the local thana. This exception has been made by India only in the case of Bangladesh nationals because of close and traditional ties with that country. All other foreign

nationals coming to India for a stay of the same duration or more have to report at the FRO and the local thana periodically. In fact, before 1971 when Pakistanis from former East Pakistan visited India, they had to report to the FRO and the nearest thana within 48 hours of their arrival.

Police say that the main reason for the overstaying Bangladesh nationals remaining untraced was that since the Government kept no tag on their movements, their whereabouts remained unknown. They could not be distinguished from Indians since they belonged to the same ethnic stock. Although a Bangladesh national visiting India on a six months' visa has to have an Indian sponsor who will support him during his stay in India, it was seen in most cases that the Bangladesh nationals were not staying with their Indian sponsors, who were ignorant about their whereabouts. Officials say that many Bangladesh nationals who have overstayed in India have already managed to secure Indian citizenship against payments varying between Rs 500 and Rs 700.

What is worrying the State Government is the thriving racket of issuing forged Indian visas in Bangladesh. So far, over 4,000 such cases have been detected when the Bangladesh nationals applied for extension of their stay or after overstaying wanted exit permits from the Government.

In fact, Government sources say, the number of actual cases of forgery are much larger and all these go undetected since most of the Bangladesh nationals return to their country well in time and their papers do not have to undergo rigorous scrutiny which is done on receiving applications for extension of stay. The inability of many Bangladesh nationals to get Indian sponsors and high expenses involved in going to Indian High Commission offices in Bangladesh to get visas are said to be the main factors encouraging the racket.

Already a few hundred Bangladesh nationals who came with forged visas, have been stranded in India for months since their passports have been confiscated. Although the External Affairs Ministry has suggested to the Union Home Ministry that these Bangladesh nationals should be blacklisted, debarred from re-entering India and be allowed to return to their country soon, the Union Home Ministry is yet to act on this advice. The External Affairs Ministry feels that a decision in this matter should be taken soon since West Bengal is already burdened with a large influx of Bangladesh infiltrators.

The West Bengal Government worried by the problem of overstay, suggested to the Union Home Ministry six months ago that a system should be devised by which the State Government would be able to keep track of Bangladesh nationals coming to India. The other suggestion was that there should be some legal binding on the Indian sponsors to force him to send his Bangladeshi guest back to his country. But the Union Home Ministry had yet to respond to the State Government's request. The present set-up of the mobile task force, whose job is to detect Bangladesh nationals illegally staying in India, is grossly inadequate as there are only about 100 men in the eight bordering districts of the State. The State Government wants more funds from the Centre to raise the strength of the force to make it more effective.

The West Bengal Government is lukewarm to the proposal of resumption of passenger train services between India and Bangladesh as it fears that this will further encourage smuggling and clandestine into India.

CSO: 4220

BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER TELLS OF STRIFE IN CONGRESS(I)

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Noisy scenes took place in the West Bengal Assembly on Friday when the Chief Minister, in reply to a question, said there were 71 clashes between different factions of the Congress (I) in the State last year, in which 17 persons were killed and 94 others injured. Mr Suniti Chattoraj and other Congress (I) members, objecting to Mr Jyoti Basu's statement, asked how he knew they were members of the different factions of the Congress (I).

Pointing to Mr Chattoraj, Mr Basu said: "You belong to one of those factions and you know who they are. Why do you ask such questions?" the Congress (I) insisted on knowing how the Chief Minister recognized them as Congress (I) men, he said that in many cases, leaders of the Congress (I) had met him and asked him to take action against their rival camp. [as published] Mr Basu, however, refused to name of the leaders, [as published] despite an insistent Opposition.

He said a booklet had been prepared to expose the role of the Congress (I) in the clashes. The booklet contained names of the supporters involved. He said he had sent the booklet to the Prime Minister to remove the misconception about the law and order situation in West Bengal.

Replying to another question, Mr Basu said about 1,000 Congress (I) supporters sat on the trucks near Burdwan station on February 13, when they did not find accommodation in the train to Delhi, where the Kisan rally was held. When the Congress (I) members asked how he knew they were not supporters of the CPI(M), Mr Basu said that could not be as the CPI(M) was opposed to the rally.

Answering a question on power, Mr Basu said one of the three units of the Jaldhaka hydel power station was generating about 8 MW at present. The other two units, now being overhauled, were expected to work by May.

Mr Jatin Chakraborty, Minister for Public Works, said that during the Left Front's rule 1,004 km of roads had been constructed at a cost of Rs 34 crores. About 140 km of roads were constructed under schemes of the Union Government in the rural areas, but since there was no money, the State Government could not maintain them.

CSO: 4220/7430

ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER ON ANTI-INFILTRATION MEASURES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Gauhati, March 27.--The Assam Government is determined to stop infiltration of foreign nationals to the State, the Chief Minister, Mrs Anwara Taimur, assured the Assembly today, reports PTI. Making a statement on the subject, the Chief Minister told the House that all possible steps to strengthen the border areas had been taken in cooperation with the Centre.

The Chief Minister said arrangements for barbed wire fencing on the borders had been made to check infiltration. Besides, 16 boats and 12 powerful machine boats had been made available to 79 border outposts. Nineteen additional outposts had been created in Cachar and Goalpara districts. The Assam police had also opened 15 patrol posts to keep vigil on infiltration.

Mrs Tailur said 176 watch posts had been opened in six districts to detect foreign nationals.

A demand for holding parliamentary elections in the remaining 12 constituencies in the Brahamaputra Valley was raised in the Assam Assembly today by a Congress (I) member Mr Mohammad Umaruddin.

Participating in the debate on the Governor's address, Mr Umaruddin said that the voters in the Brahamaputra Valley should not be deprived of their political rights. The election could not be held earlier due to the agitation on the foreign nationals issue.

Mr Umaruddin suggested that the question of carrying out census operations in the State should be examined.

The CPI-ML member, Mr Phani Medhi, demanded immediate discussion on a solution to the foreign nationals problem. He felt that emotional integration could not be brought about with the police and the CRP.

Mr Dhruba Prasad Baishya, publicity secretary of the All Assam Students Union was arrested at Tezpur in Darrang district today. Police said Mr Baishya was arrested on specific charges.

The Centre's Assam policy is in for a change to a hard line with the resignation of Mr M. L. Kampapani Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry, closely following the replacement of Mr L. P. Singh, as Governor of Assam.

The Governor and the Additional Secretary have been the architects of the relatively soft line combining negotiations with students and strict handling of the law and order situation in the State.

Mr Kampani called on Mr Zail Singh, Union Home Minister, this afternoon and formally sought "premature retirement". He is expected to be relieved on March 31.

CSO: 4220/7430

JUDGE ISSUES RULE ON BENGAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

On an application under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, moved on behalf of the petitioner Mr Pradyot Das Gupta challenging the proposed holding of municipal elections in the State of West Bengal without publication of the final electoral roll in accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, read with Rule 3 of the West Bengal Municipal Rules, 1978, Mr Justice T. K. Basu of Calcutta High Court on Friday issued a rule upon the State of West Bengal and others to show cause why a writ in the nature of mandamus or any other appropriate writ or writs should not be issued directing the respondents not to hold any municipal elections as proposed and published.

It was inter alia submitted on behalf of the petitioner that the voters' list is wholly illegal and has not been correctly prepared as will appear from the order of the Election Commission directing an intensive revision of the electoral rolls for all [illegible] constituencies in the State. It was further submitted that no preliminary or final electoral rolls have been published in accordance with Rule 3 of the said Rules.

In issuing the rule the judge granted an ad interim injunction restraining the respondents from publishing the notification fixing the date of election which is item No. 1 of the Programme of the Municipal election of West Bengal 1981. Liberty was given to the petitioner to apply for further interim order on notice to the respondents.

On an oral mentioning but on undertaking to file a formal appeal by Tuesday the Division Bench consisting of Mr Justice M. M. Dutta and Mr Justice A. K. Sarkar of the court stayed the order to the effect that publication will be made as scheduled but it will abide by the result of the order that may be made by Mr Justice Basu on March 30. The trial judge will be at liberty to make such order as he might deem fit.

CSO: 4220/7430

HOME MINISTER DENIES INTENTIONS AGAINST BENGAL FRONT

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] The Union Home Minister, Mr Zail Singh, told reporters at the Press Club, Calcutta, on Saturday that while he continued to receive complaints about the law and order situation in West Bengal, he could not say on the basis of these that there had been a deterioration of the situation in the State.

Mr Singh repeatedly stressed that law and order was a State subject; all that the Centre could do was to draw the State Government's attention to the complaints. "This is what I have been doing and while some complaints are still pending with the State Government, I have received reports on the others". He added that complaints have been received both from the Centre's own intelligence sources and Opposition political parties.

He said the Centre took action only when it felt that a State Government had totally failed to discharge its responsibilities. "We have no intention at present of dismissing the West Bengal Government". When asked for his comments on the State Congress (I)'s stand that the Left Front Ministry should be overthrown, Mr Singh replied: "I am here as the Union Home Minister and I cannot comment on that stand".

He said his official position did not allow him to make a comparison of the law and order situation in different States. Generally, however, he said law and order had improved in the country over the past year, "though not to the extent that we desire". He rejected suggestions, made in Calcutta during the day, by Mr Sharad Pawar and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee that women could not go out of their homes in Delhi after sunset.

Regarding the north-eastern States' administration, Mr Singh said the Centre was "seriously considering the appointment of more than one Governor for five States". At present, Mr L. P. Singh is the Governor of all five States. On Assam, he said efforts at a settlement were in progress and he hoped the problem would be solved soon.

The Union Home Minister said that the influx from Bangladesh into West Bengal continued to take place, but though guarding the border was the Centre's responsibility, it could not properly discharge the duties without the cooperation of the State Government.

Earlier, addressing a function to celebrate the golden jubilee of DESH DARPAN, a Punjabi daily, Mr Zail Singh said that despite ideological differences, political parties should unitedly fight divisive forces trying to harm the country's interests.

Mr Zail Singh agreed with Mr Jyoti Basu who had earlier said that it was time people fought forces trying to disrupt the country's integrity. The Union Home Mininter regretted that some people were not tolerant of people belonging to different castes and religions.

According to the Union Home Minister, the CPI and the CPI(M) had always fought for the integrity of India. Even in Punjab, the CPI, CPI(M) and Congress (U) had joined hands with other parties in maintaining secularism.

Mr Jyoti Basu said the State had never harboured any grudge against any linguistic or religious groups. In fact, 60% of the workers in West Bengal had come from other States.

About the role of the Press, he suggested that the newspapers should objectively report news and not distort them. They could certainly criticize the Left Front in their editorials.

CSO: 4220/7435

CENTER INVESTMENT IN EAST CALLED 'NEGLIGIBLE'

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Mr Ashok Mitra, Minister for Finance, told the West Bengal Assembly on Friday that West Bengal and other eastern States would have to mobilize their resources as the Central investment in the eastern region continued to be negligible. Replying to the debate on the West Bengal Appropriation Bill, 1981, he said that except the investment in the Metro Railway, there had been no other major Central investment in West Bengal in the last 15 years.

The private sector too was not investing in the area. The State Government was trying to attract investment, but the response was not up to expectations. Referring to the allegation of Opposition members that the State Government had been unable to hold the price line, the Finance Minister said that the Left Front Government could do little in this regard as the Congress (I) Government at the Centre was pursuing inflationary policies. He admitted the prevalence of corruption in Government departments but asked what the Left Front could do when corruption was practised by the Prime Minister's family and others.

Taking part in the discussion on the Appropriation Bill, Mr Kashi Kanta Moitra Janata, said the funds allotted to different departments of the Government in the State budget could not lead to development of the State unless an effort was taken to improve the general performance of the respective departments. Mr Moitra laid special emphasis on the alarming unemployment problem of the State and said that unless the Government could compel the big business houses to recruit from the employment exchange violence in the State was inevitable. Quoting from the Economic Review, Mr Moitra said only a section of the appointments in the State Government offices were made from the candidates of the employment exchange.

He said the "please-all" budget of Mr Ashok Mitra with the reliefs in sales tax, entry tax and scrapping of agricultural loans would in fact please no one, because it did not touch the crux of the problem. Mr Moitra pointed out the "inconsistency" of Mr Ashok Mitra's demand for the share of the money collected from the bearer-bonds which he had described in the budget speech as "illegal and immoral".

Mr Moitra also questioned the sincerity of the State Government's resentment against the Centre for depriving it of its just demands. He said it was "more or less shadow fighting"; otherwise the Chief Minister would have at least once

called the Opposition parties to speak on the "deprivation" and request them to make a united effort to demand more from the Centre.

Mr Bhola Sen, leader of the Congress (I) group, said that many of the tall promises made by the CPI(M) before the election had remained unfulfilled. It had failed miserably to combat hoarding in essential commodities or contain their prices. No penal action had been taken against any black-marketer or hoarder though the Left Front leaders had demanded action against them. Although the Finance Minister had pledged in the House to eliminate the dominance of contractors, the Government was doing everything to favour them. He said that it had become a fashion with the Left Front to blame Mrs Gandhi for all their ills and failures. He said that the worthlessness of the CPI(M)-led Government was being proved everyday.

Mr Haripada Bharati (BJP) said that the Left Front Government was trying to consolidate its position by distributing favours among various sections.

Mr Anil Mukherjee (FB) and Mr Sumanta Hira CPI(M) highlighted the achievements of the Left Front Government, especially in the field of education which was given this year 17% of total budgetary allocation. The House later passed the Bill by a voice vote.

Mr Ashok Mitra announced in the State Assembly on Friday total exemption of cess on green tea. He also announced that a cess of Rs 5 per kg will be levied on tea being despatched outside West Bengal and not sold through the auction centres. For tea sold within the State the cess will be Rs 2.50. He made the announcement while introducing the West Bengal Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill 1981, which was later passed by a voice vote.

Mr Ashok Mitra placed before the House reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, 1978-79 (Revenue receipts and Civil), Finance Accounts, 1978-79, Appropriation Accounts, 1978-79 and Mr Provas Roy laid the budget estimates of Damodar Valley Corporation, 1981-82.

The House meets on Monday at 1 p.m.

CSO: 4220/7431

LOK SABHA DEBATE ON RESERVATION POLICY REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 18. The Lok Sabha in a rare display of unanimity adopted, with all members standing, a resolution proclaiming its firm commitment to the policy of national reservation.

The house sat overtime until 9.30 p.m. when it passed the resolution incorporating an amendment moved by the home minister, Mr Zail Singh, and earlier agreed to by the representatives of all groups.

The original resolution on which the house debated for over five hours was introduced by Mr Ram Bilas Paswan of the Lok Dal.

The resolution adopted read, "The house expresses its concern and anguish over the situation prevailing in Gujarat over the reservation issue."

"It reiterates its firm commitment to the national policy on reservation as enshrined in the constitution."

"The reported incidence of violence, destruction of property and atrocities on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are against our very culture and go contrary to the principle of nonviolence which the father of the nation preached and for which he sacrified his life."

"To uphold our tradition it is the primary duty of every citizen to strive for restoration of peace and normalcy, and make united efforts at the national level."

When it was put to the vote, members stood in support at the suggestion of Mr Indrajit Gupta (CPI) who called a similar gesture against Chinese aggression.

"Now there is another aggression against scheduled castes and scheduled tribes against which we have to unitedly fight," he said.

Except on a few occasions there was little acrimony. Most of the participants sought to keep the debate free from any exchange of allegations.

The prime minister, who informed the members that she had followed all the speeches in her room, came to the house and appealed to all to create the necessary climate to tackle the national question.

She agreed with the members that the problem involved a question of basic attitudes and called for a united stand against forces which tried to strike at the very root of national integration.

The prime minister's brief intervention came to an end at a noisy interlude over reading by Mr George Fernandes (LD) from a report by the people's union of civil liberties on the harassment of an Adivasi trade union leader.

The interlude had a happy ending with Mr Fernandes acknowledging that the "prime minister has alone understood me as I had raised a basic question." There was laughter.

The discussion was otherwise marked by outstanding contributions [illegible] Mr Paswan, Mr A. B. Vajpayee, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Mr M. L. Sukhadia, Mr [illegible] C. Dagga and others.

They all strongly advocated that preferential opportunities for weaker sections should continue as long as they wanted it. The others should not mind this price to be paid for the treatment meted out to weaker sections through centuries.

A suggestion made by some members belonging to both sides of the house was that an all-party peace mission should visit Gujarat and assure Harijans of the national commitment to fulfill the constitutional obligations to them.

Mr Vajpayee, in his familiar eloquence, lamented the "disintegration of values and all parties with divisions all along the line." He called for an end to the agitation in Gujarat and pledged his party's commitment to the continuance of reservation.

Prof Dandavate pointed out that to Harijans the message of Hinduism was not what was conveyed through scripture but the manner of behaviour of upper castes.

Mr Dagga spoke of the lapses in the police and the administration.

CSO: 4220

SHEIKH ABDULLAH INTERVIEWED ON REFUGEE ISSUE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 81 p 5

[Interview with Sheikh Abdullah, chief minister of Jammu; 17 March 1981, place not given]

[Text] Jammu, March 18. The chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, said yesterday, that rehabilitation of 40,000 refugees from west Pakistan, settled in the Jammu region, was the responsibility of the Centre.

In an interview, he said these refugees, who fled in the wake of partition, were permitted to settle near Ranbirsinghpura, on humanitarian grounds. He disclaimed all responsibility for resettling these refugees and said the Centre should undertake this task, as it had done in the case of other refugees from west Pakistan.

The refugees are agitating for full citizenship rights which will entitle them to vote in the assembly elections and secure employment in state services. They are observing a dharna at Ranbirsinghpura and have crossed the border, on two occasions, to spotlight their grievances.

The sheikh said he could not grant these refugees full state citizenship rights as it was a very sensitive issue. The matter had been hanging fire for many years, and even the previous Congress regimes had been unable to solve it.

If the Congress(I), which was championing their cause, was interested, it could bring forward a bill in the assembly, which was the only competent body to grant these refugees full state rights.

A committee had been appointed to conduct a census of the refugees from west Pakistan, and find out how many of them had already availed themselves of Central compensation. He regretted that these refugees had not filled in forms under which the government had asked them to list the property they had left behind.

The Sheikh said the state government was responsible for rehabilitating only the refugees from the occupied areas of Kashmir and the victims of the 1965 and 1971 conflicts.

CSO: 4220

SIKH PARLEY PASSES RESOLUTIONS ON STATEHOOD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 81 p 17

[Text] Chandigarh, March 18: Resolutions seeking recognition of the Sikhs as a nation and associate membership for the Sikhs in the United Nations and raising of slogans in favour of "Khalistan" at the 54th all-India educational conference organised by the Chief Khalsa Dewan here recently have surprised even the sympathisers of the organising body.

The Chief Khalsa Dewan is an old organisation of the Sikhs and has done commendable work in the field of religion and education. It held its frist educational conference in 1908. Stalwarts like Mr Sunder Singh Majithia, Bhai Vir Singh and Mr Kharak Singh, were associated with this movement. But it is for the first time that political slogans have been raised at its platform.

Only about a month ago, when the chairman of the reception committee, Mr Harbans Singh, former chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana high court, addressed a news conference, he gave no indication of the nature of the resolutions to be passed. Mr Harbans Singh told this correspondent yesterday that he himself was taken by surprise at the developments "in response to public demand."

Sudden Shift in Policy

Mr Ganga Singh Dhillon, a businessman of Washington and president of the Nankana Sahib Foundation, who inaugurated the conference, also admitted that "there had been a 180 degree change" in the policy of the Chief Khalsa Dewan.

The sudden change in policy, has, however, raised many an eyebrow, particularly the covert manner in which it has been done. It seems that all the office-bearers of the Chief Khalsa Dewan are not united on this issue. Its president, Mr Surjit Singh Majithia, did not attend the conference though he was invited.

Informed sources say that the demand for a Sikh homeland or "Khalistan" by itself is not surprising. The demand is not new and has been made earlier by extremist elements among the Sikhs. A new development which has taken place at this conference is an attempt to internationalise the issue.

For example, Dr J. S. Neki, former director of the post-graduate institute of medical education and research here, while speaking on a resolution demanding the appointment of an international commission to inquire into the suitability

to modernise the needs of Sikh educational institutes founded over three decades ago, said that Russia was trying to influence the Sikh intelligentsia by flooding the Punjab market with books and periodicals in Gurmikhi and also honouring Punjabi writers.

Even the well-wishers of the Chief Khalsa Dewan have regretted this 'internationalisation' of issues. They argue that critics will then be well within their rights to ask how an American Sikh, and that too a businessman, was asked to preside over the conference. They ask if communist "Gursikhs" are trying to infiltrate into the Sikh masses through gurdwaras and educational institutions, can American be far behind?

Pak. Response Positive

They say that Mr Dhillon is also a "Gursikh" and had had several meetings with President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan over the maintenance of Sikh shrines in Pakistan. Mr Dhillon maintains that he had got a positive response from the Pakistani President but regretted that the attitude of the Indian authorities was lukewarm. He disclosed that he was planning to meet the Union home minister and the Prime Minister in Delhi on March 22. Mr Dhillon left for Pakistan yesterday.

Mr Dhillon explained to his correspondent that though he believed that the Sikhs were a nation, he had nothing to do with "Khalistan." The Sikhs were not confined to Punjab or Delhi but were spread all over the world. THe Sikhs were an international community, and as such, they should be associate members of the United Nations on the pattern of the Ukranians, the Red Indians and the PLOs so that they could ventilate their grievances at an international forum.

Mr Dhillon criticised the leaders of the Akali Dal and the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee for allegedly obstructing his efforts with the Pakistan government for allowing Sikhs to visit their shrines in that country freely.

There is, however, one snag in Mr Dhillon's arguments. He knows he will not succeed in his efforts with Pakistan without the help of the Union government and the Shriomeni Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee which was managing the shrines in Pakistan before partition.

CSO: 4220

SURVEY OF ANDHRA PRADESH-ORISSA BORDER PLANNED

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] Bhubaneswar, March 17. The Orissa Revenue Minister, Mr K. C. Lenka, today assured the members of the State Assembly that the interests of the State would be protected and would not concede any part of its territory to Andhra Pradesh.

Replying to a short notice question tabled in the House by Mr Galgopal Mishra and Mr Nrusinhananda Brahma, the Minister said some officials of the Andhra Pradesh Government had entered Koraput district of Orissa for census operations but the villagers had not responded to this.

Mr Lenka said steps had been taken to form a joint survey team and take up detailed verification of the inter-State border in 17 disputed areas. He said the AP Government had agreed to this proposal too except in the case of villages covered by suits subjudice in the Supreme Court.

The Minister denied the allegation of Mr Mishra and Mr Brahma that the AP Government was harassing and threatening people of Koraput district in the periphery of Balimela dam by forcibly collecting land revenue and exploiting the forest wealth of the area.

Mr Lenka said it had been reported that bamboos were being pollected [as published] by Andhra Pradesh for its paper mills. These forest blocks on the border areas had not been surveyed. Steps had been taken to survey this unsurveyed forest block. Whenever any incident of encroachment was reported immediate action was being taken by the Government, he said.

CSO: 4220

NORTHERN INDIA HINDU CONFERENCE HELD IN JAMMU

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Mar 81 p 16

[Text] Jammu. Hindus have been urged to "alleviate the sufferings of their Harijan brethren" who are an integral part of the Hindu society, according to a resolution adopted by the Northern India Hindu conference, organised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad here on Sunday.

Another resolution said the Hindus in the Jammu and Kashmir State were feeling suffocated as their economic and social status was in peril.

Therefore the resolution urged the Central and the State Governments to appoint a judicial commission to go into the grievances of this minority community in the State.

The conference threatened to launch an all-India agitation if the State Government headed by Sheikh Abdullah did not end its present policy of "victimisation of the minority Hindu community and check encroachment on lands belonging to shrines and temples."

The State's education policy had been so designed that "our spiritual language Sanskrit, the ayurvedic system and the link language Hindi face total liquidation, the conference felt.

The State Government was urged to withdraw the Hindu Religious and Charitable Government's interference in religious institutions and the faith of Hindus.

CSO: 4220

LOK SABHA DISCUSSES DELHI-STATE RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Mar 81 p 10

[Text]

NEW DELHI March 16

The Minister of State for Finance, Mr S S Sisodia, told the Lok Sabha today that the centre had decided to allow States whose per capita income was below the national average, an additional market borrowing of Rs 1 000 crores during the Sixth Plan.

Mr Sisodia was replying to the debate on supplementary demands for grants for 1980-81 which involved a net additional expenditure of Rs 832.8 crores.

The demands were later passed along with the necessary appropriations.

Referring to the pleas of Mr Ram Nagina Mishra (Cong-I) and Mr Hanikesh Bahadur (DSP) that more funds should be allocated to backward States, the Minister said that, after the return of the Congress-(I) Government to power, the Gadgil Formula for giving Central assistance to States had been changed. The States, which were backward had been given more assistance.

He assured the members that the Government would take strict measures to prevent tax evasion.

Toppling Bid Alleged

Initiating the debate Mr Niren Ghosh (CPI-M) alleged that, despite an assurance given by the Prime Minister, attempts were being made to topple the non-Congress(I) Governments in the States.

He said persons close to the ruling party had let us that the West Bengal Government will be toppled.

He warned that if any such blunder was committed the people would rise in protest.

Mr Ghosh said some senior IPS and IAS officers not liked by the Government had been removed from the Centre and junior persons placed in key positions. This had demoralised the administration.

He wanted more funds to be allocated for developing nuclear power.

Mr Ram Nagina Misra (Cong-I) said cane growers should be allowed to use power-driven crushers in U P.

He urged the Government to take action against corrupt cooperatives.

Mr Satyanarayana Jatia (BJP) said that even 30 years after independence the lot of farmers had not improved. He called for implementing research projects to benefit the farmers.

Mr Satya Deo Sinha (Cong-I) urged the dismissal of the West Bengal Government for its failure to protect the interest of non-Bengalis.

He said the Opposition should cooperate with the Government by offering constructive ideas.

Spint scandal

Mrs Geeta Mukherjee (CPI) said supplies were not available in fair price shops in the last two weeks. She wanted the wholesale trade in foodgrains to be taken over by the Government.

Mr Girdhari Lal Vyas (Cong-I) said the Centre should take action in the spirit scandal involving the Kerala and Tamil Nadu Governments.

Mr Hanikesh Bahadur (DSP) regretted that the public distribution system in U P was being handed over to the Cooperative Department which was corrupt. He warned the Centre to advise the State Government against such a step.

Mr Jaipal Singh Kashyap (Janata-S) said rampant corruption had weakened the entire fabric of society. UNI

CSO: 4220

BIHAR ASSEMBLY PASSES FINANCE BILL FOR 1981

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Patna, March 27

The Bihar Assembly today passed the Bihar Finance Bill 1981 with amendments by a voice vote.

Sp aking on the bill, Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra said through this legislation the State would earn an additional revenue of Rs 28.5 crore annually. This would mean extra resources of Rs 114 crore during the remaining four years of the Sixth Plan.

In addition, Dr Mishra said, as a result of rationalization of the sales-tax system in line with the recommendations of the various committees, industrial development in the State would pick up.

He said that while imposing new taxes special attention had been paid that these would not hit the common man.

The object of the bill, Dr Mishra said, was to check tax evasion.

A provision had been made in it to secure not only the benefit of taxation at the first stage but also at the subsequent stages taking advantage of the rise in prices. This would lead to collection of higher revenue.

The bill has seven parts. The first part relates to taxation on purchase and sale of goods. The second part provides for taxation on the fare and freight earned by inland waterways transport, for the carriage of passengers. But no tax will be charged on carriage of goods by inland waterways transport. The third part provides for taxation on advertisements but newspapers have been exempted from this tax. Part four to seven relate [as published] to certain amendments in several existing tax laws aimed at earning additional revenue.

Part one does not provide for any new taxation. Sales-tax is levied in this State for long.

There is provision for adjusting Sales-tax paid on raw materials by manufacturers against sales-tax payable by them on finished products. This will result in some immediate loss of revenue.

A time-limit has been set for sales-tax fixation. The number of appeals and revisions is being reduced from three to two. In pending refund cases, a provision is being made for payment of interest to traders.

The State Government has decided not to raise the present electricity consumption charge of two paise per unit on agricultural and industrial fields. But it has raised the charge on domestic and commercial consumption from 7 to 10 paise per unit. Additional revenue of Rs 20 lakhs per annum is expected to be earned by this increase.

Part six proposes amendment of the Cess Act 1880. At present the maximum limit on cess can equal the amount available from nines as royalty. [as published] It is now proposed to make this double of the royalty. It also proposed higher rate of taxes by non-agricultural motor vehicles. This is estimated to fetch an additional revenue of Rs 50 lakhs per year. The rates of registered bonds will also go up. This is expected to an additional revenue of Rs 2.5 crores annually. [as published]

CSO: 4220/7433

CHIEF MINISTER PRESENTS HIMACHAL PRADESH BUDGET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Simla, March 27

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Ramlal Thakur, who also holds the finance portfolio, today presented to the Assembly a balanced and tax-free budget for the next year.

The budget proposals expect receipts of Rs 263.86 crores and expenditure of the same order.

Presenting the budget, the Chief Minister announced another instalment of Dearness Allowance to the State Government employees from 1 September, 1980. He also announced a 15-point programme for bettering the conditions of weaker sections.

The programme provides for doubling the existing amounts of ex-gratia grant to the family of government employees who die in harness, a record 11 per cent outlay for Scheduled Castes in addition to the special Central assistance and a time-bound survey to identify families living below povertyline on the basis of which the Government would take further steps to realign its economic policies in favour of targeted groups. Besides, all Harijan hamlets would be linked by road within the next three years.

The Chief Minister also announced a new scheme of scholarship of five rupees each to the primary school children belonging to families with annual income below Rs 6000 to encourage universalisation of primary education. The government would also enlarge the scope of old age and widow pension schemes, he said.

The Chief Minister said to provide relief to the rural indebted, it has been decided that small and marginal farmers would not have to pay more than double the amount of principal loan together with interest or penal interest.

CSO: 4220/7433

MINISTER DESCRIBES NEW APPROACH TO 5-YEAR PLANNING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Mar 81 p 10

[Text] A "household approach" to planning for poverty eradication as opposed to the macro-level approach at the national and subnational level which had been relied upon predominantly so far, will be the main feature of the Sixth Five-Year plan.

This was stated by Union Planning Minister N D Tiwari while delivering the Dr Zakir Hussain memorial lecture on 'planning and the task of nation building', on Friday.

Among the major elements of the new approach Mr Tiwari outlined, are transfer of assets like land and livestock to families with no asset base; provision of productivity raising inputs, credits and services; employment generation with integrated attention to salaried, self and wage employment; providing basic human needs such as drinking water, rural housing, rural electrification, education, nutrition, health care and promotion of the small family norm.

In operational terms, the planning Minister explained, the household approach entailed identification of households below the poverty line. In 1977-78 the percentage of population below the poverty line was 48.13, which is absolute figures was about 305 million.

Of about 20,000 families in a block, 10,000 to 12,000 on an average were estimated to be below the poverty line. The aim of the anti-poverty operation during the sixth Plan was to provide assistance to about 3000 of such families, he said.

Mr Tiwari said the new approach to the eradication of poverty would be made through the Integrated Rural Development Programme. Village level workers and the panchayat secretaries would maintain lists of all families within their jurisdiction.

A register would be compiled for each block, villagewise, open for inspection, so that each household in the target group could find itself listed, he added.

The Minister called for 'vigorous enforcement' of minimum wages legislation and encouragement of collective bargaining for the families of agricultural workers who were 'fully employed' in the time dimension of the concept.

CSO: 4220/7433

PRESIDENT REDDY SPEAKS ON AWARDS PRESENTATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 27 (PTI): The President, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddy, today lambasted the private sector for its "total failure" in providing employment to the handicapped.

The President hinted that the government should take some measures, if the private sector did not come forward even in this International Year for the Disabled.

Mr. Reddy deviated from the test of his speech and made the observations after presenting the 1981 national awards to 31 outstanding handicapped self-employed workers, employees and employers and placement officers of the handicapped.

Mr. Reddy said the award winners deserved the nation's respect as they had fought formidable obstacles and proved beyond doubt that "they can work equally well, like others."

Job Reservation

The President, however, regretted that only 27,108 handicapped persons out of a total of some 40 million to 50 million had been absorbed in gainful employment. This was like a drop in the ocean.

He pointed out that the government was reserving a certain percentage of posts for the handicapped in the public sector. This could be a model to the employers in the private sector.

In his welcome speech, Mr. S. B. Chavan, minister of education, said instructions had also been issued to oil and petroleum companies to reserve ten per cent of their dealerships agencies for the handicapped.

He also pointed out that a scheme for supply of aids and appliances either free or at subsidised rates depending on the income of the disabled persons had been formulated.

CSO: 4220/7428

GUJARAT DOCTOR INTERVIEWED ON RESERVATIONS ISSUE

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Mar 81 p 8

[Article by K. K. Katyal]

[Text] WHAT exactly is the anti-reservation agitation of Gujarat about? Is it aimed against the constitutional directive for the uplift of weaker sections through weightage in jobs and educational institutions? Or is it a political campaign against the Government, planned and inspired by its opponents?

These questions became relevant as the trouble initially confined to five medical colleges of Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda and Jamnagar spread to other areas and covered issues other than the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in post-graduate medical institutions.

Dr Mrugesh Vaishnav, President of the All-Gujarat Junior Doctors' Association, avers that their campaign is neither politically motivated nor directed against the weaker sections. Their sole concern, according to him, is to ensure that those who achieve proficiency after putting in hard work, are not deprived of the opportunities to pursue higher studies.

The agitation by anti-reservationists which began in January took many unexpected unseemly turns. Particularly grim was the situation in the wake of the counter-protest by the Harijans and others and the intrusion of political elements from various parties, including the ruling Congress (I).

The unanimous call by the Lok Sabha and the joint appeal by party leaders for an end to the agitation did have a salutary effect but not enough as to help resolve the underlying problem. True, the plans for intensifying the agitation were given up but even in its limited forms it continued to cause anxiety.

Dr. Vaishnav, (25), a post-graduate student, explains the ideas that prompted them to take to agitation at this juncture. Here are his answers to some aspects of the current agitation.

QUESTION:

Why this agitation? Reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is accepted as a matter of national policy. What then, is the point in campaigning against it?

ANSWER:

We are not against backward classes or tribals. We are not fighting against the constitutional directive in favour of reservation. We accept it even though we feel that the reservation, as a policy, is not good and must be replaced at the earliest possible by better alternatives.

Medical Education Will Suffer

In higher education where super-speciality is involved, there should be no reservations at all. Reservation is intended to help the socially and economically backward, but a person after securing the MBBS degree will have a good social status and can do well economically. Why should he be considered backward? There must be a limit to reservation.

If merit or standard is ignored it could harm the future of the medical education and the country's social health. Due to such backdoor devices like the capitation fee and reservations, our medical education does not have a good reputation abroad with the result that several foreign medical councils have de-recognised our degrees.

Reservation for registrars, who are required to undertake teaching duties apart

from the clinical work, is particularly harmful. If persons who are not qualified like those passing after several trials or getting marks below a minimum standard get registrarship, it would hamper the teaching at the undergraduate level, and at the later stage, the post-graduate education will also suffer.

Similarly, persons who are not fully qualified will not be able to do justice to the community in the matter of diagnosis of diseases and treatment and other matters connected with health care.

Why agitation now

Q: The reservations have been in force for almost five years. What is the provocation for launching the agitation now? Is there any development by way of the proverbial last straw on the camel's back or any other compulsion? Any significance about the timing of the present agitation?

A: The All-Gujarat Junior Doctors' Association and Medical Students Union had taken up the matter soon after the reservations were introduced at the post-graduate level on May 22, 1975. We launched an agitation immediately afterwards and, on June 4, the reservation order was kept in abeyance. The order was revived on June 12, and we resumed the agitation on June 20. But on June 26, when Emergency was declared, the agitation died a natural death.

We took up the matter again in 1977 through representations to the State Government, the Indian Medical Association and the Indian Medical Council. After one year, the Indian Medical Council upheld our stand and said that admissions to post-graduate courses must be strictly on the basis of merit. This was in October 1978.

In the following year the Government introduced what has come to be known as the practice of "carry forward" and "interchangeability." As a result, the reserved quota last year rose to 42 per cent and in four branches, pathology, TB and chest diseases, radiology and ENT, it was almost cent per cent while in surgery and medicine, up to 50 per cent. Because of this the dormant feelings against the reservation policy came in the open and the result was the present agitation.

Q: This agitation is the fourth in the series of anti-Government campaigns since August last year, the earlier ones being on the issues of the price rise, higher return for farm produce and the university bandh. This has led some to suggest that the anti-reservation movement is a part of the political campaign against the Government and is inspired by some high-caste communities which find themselves ousted from power. What about this charge?

Nothing to do with politics

A: We have nothing to do with politics. We have not given chance to any politician to take advantage of our agitation. Also, right from the beginning we have been keen on a compromise. Secondly, it is not a political problem because all parties, because of their vested interests, have affirmed faith in the reservation policy. This is a fight for a principle. We have no connection with politics.

Q: What about the charge that the BJP or RSS is inspiring or supporting the movement?

A: Our Association has 6,000 members and if any one of them belongs to a family which also has a prominent politician it is no proof of the agitation having political links.

We posed a question of principle to the country — that reservation is not a good policy — and we discussed it with others and found widespread sympathy for our viewpoint. That is why others too, raised their voices against the reservation policy. There has been no conscious efforts as such to extend the agitation.

Q: The backward students are worried that because of the bias of upper caste examiners, their performance is not properly appraised and they are awarded lower marks than what they deserve. Is there any truth in it and if so, what is the remedy?

A: That is not true. The real problem is of ensuring justice to meritorious students most of whom, after 4-1/2 years of hard work, are unable to get into post-graduate courses. Out of 200 students, only five to ten are allocated the subject of their choice while in the reserved quota all get the subject of their preference. This is not fair.

This difficulty is not resolved by the Government decision to increase the number of seats to be filled on merit. In the Ahmedabad hospital the number of seats for the general category has been raised to 65 but that would not ensure justice. The fact remains that the other 135, though qualified, would be excluded while some with lower marks would be able to get in because of the reservation policy.

CSO: 4220/7442

DELHI NAMES MEMBERS OF INTEGRATION, OTHER COMMITTEES

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 29.

The Central Government today announced the formation of a 15-member standing committee of the National Integration Council headed by the Union Home Minister, Mr. Zail Singh. It includes prominent leaders of the Opposition and several Chief Ministers.

Constituted in pursuance of a decision taken in November last, the committee is intended to ensure proper follow-up of the council's decisions.

It will also report to the council on the actions taken by the Government during the intervening period of two meetings of the council.

The other members of the committee are Messrs. Y. B. Chavan, Swaran Singh, Bhupesh Gupta, M. Karunanidhi, Jyoti Basu, A. R. Antulay, J. B. Patnaik, T. Anjiah, Jagannath Mishra, V. P. Singh, Rishang Keishing, J. R. D. Tata, S. A. Dange and Mrs. Begum Abida Ahmed.

Two more committees were also announced--one for communal harmony with the Union Home Minister as chairman and another for education under the chairmanship of the Union Education Minister.

The committee for communal harmony will review, from time to time, the steps taken by the Central and State Governments to maintain and promote communal harmony and also recommend effective steps to prevent the recrudescence of communal violence.

The committee on education will review the educational system and suggest measures to make it an effective instrument for promoting national integration.

Both these committees will function for one year to begin with, and their further continuance in their present form will be reviewed later by the National Integration Council.

MGR on Communal Harmony Panel

They will have the power to coopt other members of the main council or experts who are not members of the council.

The members of the reconstituted committee on communal harmony, besides the chairman are: Messrs. Sheikh Abdullah, M. G. Ramachandran, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Hokishe Sema, Gundu Rao, Jagannath Pahadia, Bhola Paswan Shastri, B. D. Khobaragade, Chandra Shekhar, K. K. Birla, Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, Swami Ranganathananda, Arjun Singh, E. K. Nayanar, Nar Bahadur Bhandari (Chief Minister of Sikkim), Chitta Basu, Shishir Kumar, V. P. Sathe, Darbara Singh, Dr. M. Malik Mohamed, Mrs. Anwara Taimur and Mrs. Zarina Currimbhoy.

The members of the reconstituted committee on education, besides the chairman, are: Messr. Madhavsinh Solanki, J. B. Jasokie, Frank Anthony, Satish Chandra, S. Hamid, Bhajan Lal, B. B. Lyngdoh, Nripen Chakraborty, Ram Lal, Tribid Chaudhury, Krishna Kripalani and Hari Dang, Field Marshal Manekshaw, Prof. Satimoy Ray and Prof. Madhuri Shah.

CSO: 4220/7442

KERALA LEADER OPENS SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY PARLEY

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Mar 81 p 10

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM, March 29

It is necessary to put the South on the historical map of India, Mr E. K. Nayanar, Kerala Chief Minister, said on Sunday.

He was inaugurating the three-day second annual conference of the South Indian History Congress.

"To many historians, the history of India is, in main, the history of the Indo-Gangetic belt," he said. "Even today to many in the North, anybody from the South is a Madrasi."

For the historians too, the South remained a blind spot. It was "necessary to put the South on the historical map of India."

The Chief Minister hoped that the History Congress would make its contribution in correcting the "present distorted position."

Role of caste system

The role of the caste system in the various stages of our social development and its part in the Indian social fabric is a subject which needs in-depth study, he said.

The two important issues—the Assam problem which was connected with the nationalities question and the reservation issue—had "their roots in our history."

In his view the caste and communal set-up in the country were breaking at their seams.

"We are now witnessing the birth pangs of a new society which is based more on class than on caste and religious considerations," he said.

Dr. T. V. Mahalingam, retired Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, and the present President of the South Indian History Congress, said that in the country the component parts had contributed to the evolution of the mosaic of Indian culture.

Chauvinism needs to be avoided

There were many organisations in South India devoted to the study of the history and culture of small localities or regions in it.

In these studies the tendency to chauvinism should be avoided and a wider homogeneous area covered and bringing to bear the inter-dependence of adjoining areas in political, economic and social activities.

Aim of the Congress

"In my opinion, the aim of the Congress should be to evaluate and bring out the personality and contribution of the area from the Vindhyas and Maharashtra in the north to Kanyakumari in the South, avoiding overemphasis on the greater or lesser role of one region when compared to that of another."

Dr. Mahalingam said that a main source for the reconstruction of the earlier phases of the history of South India, as of India itself, was archaeology. The work done by the Archaeological Survey of India was supplemented by the State Department of archaeology and some universities.

Unpublished reports

There was a volume of data on the pre-historic and early historic civilisation of peninsular India, but the reports of many of the excavations conducted in the last 30 years had not been published. These must be published.

Need for archaeological planning

Further there was need for definite archaeological planning, he said. "The choice of sites for excavation and archaeological research must be problem-oriented and for such work there must be coordination of the activities of agencies involved."

Zonal archaeology councils

Zonal archaeological councils could be formed for different regions including the South, he suggested. Each, with an archaeological personality, would study problems connected with excavations in the respective area and put up proposals to the ASI for consideration by an advisory board before issuing licences for excavations.

Dr V. K. Sukumaran Nair, Vice-Chancellor of the Kerala University, welcomed the gathering. Dr T. K. Ravindran, Professor of History, Kerala University, proposed a vote of thanks.

Historian of eminence

At the inaugural session, Dr T. V. Mahalingam was honoured as a Historian of Eminence for his contributions to South Indian history. The conference described him as doyen among historians and archaeologists.

CSO: 4220/7442

TAMIL NADU BRAHMINS ASK STATE PROTECTION

Madras THE HINDU in English 30 Mar 81 p 12

[Text]

PALNI, March 29.

The first State-level conference of the Tamil Nadu Brahmins' Association has requested the State Government to take economic backwardness and not caste as the criterion for the classification into backward and forward communities.

Several thousands of Brahmins from all the districts of Tamil Nadu had poured into the holy town of Palni, one of the six abodes of Lord Muruga, even from Friday evening, to participate in the three-day conference which concluded on Sunday.

The participants, who included women, went in procession through the main streets raising slogans demanding justice in the matter of admissions to educational institutions and recruitment to Government service.

The conference requested the Government to reserve 30 per cent of the seats in educational institutions for the forward community.

In a resolution, the conference appealed to the State Government to take effective steps to curb the "anti-communal activities of the Dravida Kazhagam which preaches class hatred" and ban the organisation as "anti-national".

It called upon all the Brahmins of Tamil Nadu to unite, to check peacefully and lawfully, scurrilous attacks on their religion, manners and age-long customs.

It asked them to safeguard their legitimate rights.

Entitled to State's Protection

The campaign of hate and incitement to violence preached by a set of people in Tamil Nadu against the Brahmin Community was viewed with concern by the meet.

It appealed to the State and Central Governments to take stern steps to put down such defamatory and degrading propaganda, while noting with regret that such steps had not been taken.

The Brahmin community was entitled to the protection from the State, it said.

The Conference asked the members of the Brahmin community, especially the youth, to see that the dowry system was ended and the spending of large sums of money for marriages was done away with.

It called upon the Brahmins to start projects to help the unemployed, aged and have-nots and build for the benefit of the community, shopping centres, housing colonies, provision stores, banks, schools, kalyana mandapams, community centres and libraries.

The State Government was requested to raise the pay scales of archakas and other temple employees.

All temple lands must be taken over by the Government after paying adequate compensation, it said.

No favours sought

Mr. S. Sivaramakrishna Iyer, a scholar from Trivandrum, who inaugurated the conference, said that the Brahmins did not seek any favours.

They only wanted that "all channels should be fully open to them as to any other community in the land."

In some places, the Brahmins were persecuted because they were born as Brahmins. They were a minority community and deserved support from the Minorities Commission, he said.

As the Brahmin community was economically backward, there must be reservations for it too, he said.

Mr. Kuman Ananthan, President, Gandhi-Kamaraj National Congress, said that while the Government was justified in giving concessions to the depressed and downtrodden people, it was also bound to extend similar help to the thousands of Brahmins who were economically weaker.

CSO: 4220/7442

LOK SABHA DISCUSSES PLIGHT OF REFUGEES IN JAMMU

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Mar 81 p 9

[Article by V. S. Maniam]

[Text] New Delhi, March 29.--Of several calling-attention motions which figured in the Lok Sabha last week, one lingers in the mind: the motion relating to the thousands of refugees from West Pakistan living in Jammu since 1947, but without yet being allowed to become permanent residents of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The discussion on it showed the Lok Sabha at its noblest, with members spotlighting with controlled emotion what was almost an ancient wrong an seeking its correction, and with the Government, as represented by the Minister concerned fully responsive and no less compassionate than the members. [as published]

The tale of those refugees, as unfolded before the House by the sponsors of the motion, was poignant and disturbing. Some 3,000 families from adjoining Sialkot and Shakkargarh had been living in the State for over 33 years as Stateless citizens with no rights whatever, not even the right to employment, let alone the right to own land. And the Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdullah, had been reported as saying that his State had given these refugees only temporary shelter out of compassion.

The refugees were desperate. Some were on the verge of suicide. To draw attention to their plight, they had staged a dharna last year and were staging another one. In their frustration they were even talking of crossing the border and going back to Pakistan.

Mr R. K. Mhalgi (BJP) who moved the calling-attention motion, asked what the Government was doing to help the refugees. The Minister of State for Rehabilitation, Mr Bhagwat Jha Azad, told him that the State Government had not yet sent any report to the Centre. However the constitutional position regarding these refugees was that they were certainly Indian citizens.

'Order' of 1957

Mr Harikesh Bahadur (DSF), who spoke next, felt that these refugees who, as the Minister affirmed, were Indian citizens were being discriminated against by the State. He cited a 1957 "order" by the State Government which made it impossible for them to acquire permanent residentship rights. Would the Centre advise the State to amend that "order"?

Mr. Azad agreed that the State's Representation of People Act, 1957, did indeed stand "in the way of these infortunate [as published] people". According to it, they had first to become permanent residents. And a 1957 order stipulated that to be eligible for that, they should have been resident in the State since at least 1944. A vicious circle, although he did not say so.

The final participant in the discussion was the exceptionally articulate Dr Karan Singh (Congress-U). He had a resounding pat for Mr Azad: "He is answering the questions with a great deal of sympathy and he has done his homework". The member then went on to restate--clearly, coherently, and in simple yet elegant language, which is what earns him the House's total attention always--the refugees' case. He was unhappy that the process of integrating of the refugees with the rest of the population started by the previous Congress Government--which in 1973-74 even drafted a Bill to confer property rights on them--had been deliberately reversed.

According to him the solution of their problem was simple: amendment of Section 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution. "This can be done". That section is amazing. It wants applicants for permanent residentship to be men of property in the State.

As Dr Karan Singh ended his brief speech, a Congress (I) member--whose interest and sympathy, like that of most others, had by then been deeply stirred--had a question: "What is the religion of these refugees? Are they Hindus, Muslims, or Christians?"

"Hindus, and 90% of them are Harijans", Dr Karan Singh told him.

CSO: 4220/7440

SHEIKH MAINTAINS OCCUPIED KASHMIR A PART OF INDIA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Mar 81 p 12

[Text] Jammu, March 29.--Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdullah, made it clear yesterday that all areas of the State which were under the illegal occupation of Pakistan and China were legally and constitutionally an integral part of the Indian Union.

He said U.N. resolutions had accused Pakistan of having committed armed aggression to usurp parts of the State's territory in 1947. "Till today we have not reconciled ourselves to this forced and artificial division of our State".

Speaking on a point of order raised by a Congress (U) member in the State Assembly, the Chief Minister said: "Our State legislature is legally and constitutionally competent to discuss the problems of people living in the Pakistan and China occupied areas of Kashmir".

"It is because of this legal and constitutional position of those Pakistan and China occupied areas of our State that we have till today kept reserved and vacant 25 seats in our State Assembly for people from those res of our State". [as published]

PTI adds: Sheikh Abdullah expressed his views while the House was discussing an issue of "far-reaching" significance whether it was competent to debate on or refer to the matter pertaining to the State's territory known as Azad Kashmir, now under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

The issue was raised by the Congress (U) member, Mr Bhim Singh, who wanted the ruling of the Speaker on the question.

The Speaker, Mr Parmanand, put the matter before the House and requested some members and Ministers to give their views.

After the members, including the Chief Minister, had expressed their views, Mr Parmanand reserved his ruling.

A majority of members from the Opposition thought that the House should not discuss matters pertaining to the so-called Azad Kashmir. The members who supported this view included Mr Harbans Lal Bhagotra (Janata), Mr Baldev Singh (BJP), Mr Mohammad Aslam (Congress-I) and Mr P. L. Handoo (National Conference).

But Mr Abdul Rashied Kabil, Janata Party leader, and Mr Malik Mohiuddin (Congress-I) said the House had full right to debate it.

The Finance Minister, Mr D. D. Thakur, said the State had no physical jurisdiction over the areas across the line of control. What it would discuss would be beyond its scope and hence an "exercise in futility". Since the area was under the illegal occupation of Pakistan, the issue came under the Central subject of Foreign Affairs.

But the Chief Minister, when requested by the Speaker to speak said the House must not be debarred from expressing its sympathetic attitude towards "lakhs of brethren" across the cease-fire line who had been "separated from us because of unauthorized and illegal occupation by Pakistan".

CSO: 4220/7440

WRITER NOTES PROBLEMS OF MINORITIES COMMISSION

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Mar 81 p 8

[Article by K. K. Katyal: "An Air of Bewilderment"]

[Text] Ever since the Minorities Commission was set up by the Janata Government in 1978, it has been the central point of many an unseemly controversy. Two Chairmen had to quit. Neither the Central government nor the Commission had covered itself with glory over the conduct of this experiment of an institutionalised set-up to ensure that the safeguards for minorities did not remain meaningless platitudes. Perhaps a switch from the present political approach to a scientific attitude would give a meaning to its work.

The Minorities Commission has been a jinxed body since its inception over three years ago. Though a brain-child of the Janata Government, it was caught in its infancy in an unseemly clash of personalities--between its first Chairman, Mr Minoo Masani, and the then Prime Minister, Mr Morarji Desai.

Mr Masani left in disgust, after a brief four-month tenure. His successor, Mr M.R.A. Ansari, found himself on a wayward course because of several factors, not all beyond his control. In any case, he could not establish a rapport with the Congress(I) Government at the Centre. Its members, Prof. V.V. John and Dr (Miss) Aloo J. Dastur, resigned long before their term was over.

The Janata Government's move to give it a statutory status misfired, because the bill on the subject did not get the requisite support in the Lok Sabha and a fresh legislation, though promised, did not materialise.

Mr Ansari, who was replaced last month, left with a feeling that his term was abruptly cut short. (The Government, however, denied the charge.) The task of the new Chairman, Mr M.A. Beg, former Chief Justice of India, is by no means enviable.

Neither the Central Government nor the Commission covered itself with glory over the conduct of this experiment of an institutionalised set-up to ensure that the safeguards for minorities did not remain meaningless platitudes.

There is an air of bewilderment in regard to all matters concerning the Commission--its role, the scope and style of functioning, resources at its disposal and the Government's expectations from it.

Conceived in the Janata Party's manifesto for the 1977 Lok Sabha election, the Minorities Commission was formed with a fanfare on Jan. 12, 1978 under an eight-point charter. It was asked, among other things, to evaluate the working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and various laws, suggest ways to ensure enforcement, review the work done in pursuance of the policies of the Central and State Governments and look into specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of the minorities.

Feeling of Discrimination

"Despite the safeguards provided in the Constitution and the laws in force," said the Government's resolution, "there persists among the minorities a feeling of inequality and discrimination. In order to preserve secular traditions and to promote national integration, the Government of India attaches the highest importance to the enforcement of the safeguards provided for the minorities and is of the firm view that effective institutional arrangements are urgently required for the effective enforcement and implementation of all the safeguards in the Constitution, in Central and State laws and in Government policies and administrative schemes, enunciated from time to time."

A noble objective, no doubt, but some of the steps taken (or not taken) could not but expose the Government to the charge that the Commission was more of a political slogan than anything else. Initially, Mr S.N. Mishra, a Janata Party senior who could not be accommodated in the Union Cabinet, was to be its chairman. Then came the realisation that it would be better, for purposes of impact, to have a member of the minority community to head the Commission. The choice therefore fell on Mr Masani.

High Hopes

Mr Masani began his term on high hopes. Though a product of an executive order, the Commission, he declared, should not be looked upon as an arm of the Government. To him the Commission had a quasi-judicial role somewhat akin to that of an ombudsman. A body like this, according to him, must function and be seen to function as an independent and impartial authority, not subject in any way to the control of the Government whose performance it had to judge. He poohpoohed Mrs Gandhi's scepticism that the Commission had been set up to shelve the problems of minorities. And he said so on the strength of the assurances received from Mr Desai and the then Home Minister, Mr Charan Singh.

And the very same Mr Masani found three months later that his conception of the role of the Commission was different from what the Government had in mind. He was particularly sore that the Government had gone ahead with the introduction in the Lok Sabha of a bill on the Aligarh Muslim University without waiting for the Commission's findings. A disillusioned Mr Masani bowed out of office.

Mr Ansari was only slightly luckier--in the sense that his stay in the Commission lasted three years (both as a member and as chairman). Though there was

no head-on collision between the government and the Commission during his tenure, the relationship was hardly cordial--after the change at the Centre and, what is more important, even before that.

The plans for the visits of the members of the Commission to Jamshedpur, Aligarh, Moradabad and the scene of communal riots in Gujarat were delayed because the local administration felt that their presence in the surcharged atmosphere would add to the problems. Mr Ansari who visited Moradabad soon after last year's trouble was keen to go there again but was discouraged by the Government. In fact, this matter was still pending when he was replaced. His plans for a trip to Assam were also thwarted.

Govt. Against Visit

This left a bitter taste on the two sides. Both New Delhi and the State Governments concerned did not quite like his "intrusion" in the situations of communal tension and riots. Mr Ansari felt that the local administrations were being negative and obstructive. As regards Moradabad he was not convinced by the argument about the impropriety of the Commission's visit at a time when a judicial probe had been ordered.

And officials did not like the "raw impression" formed by him when he did go there--that the Government's account had been misleading, the extent of the damage had been underestimated, the responsibility for the trouble had not been fixed, there had been discrimination in arrests and releases and investigations were not proper.

Some idea of the commission's activities could be had from its two annual reports as also from the ad hoc documents. It reported on the controversy over the Aligarh Muslim University (and favoured legislative steps to affirm its character as an institution of the minority), on the communal disturbances in Pernambut in Tamil Nadu and Aligarh, rehabilitation of the sufferers of Jamshedpur riots, the Freedom of Religion Bill, status of Punjabi language in the Union Territory of Delhi, dispute between Hindus and Sikhs over the construction of a temple in close proximity to a Gurdwara in Karnal and the U.P. Ordinance prohibiting the transfer of church properties.

Not all of the members of the commission were happy with the disproportionate attention paid to individual cases. Some of them tried to change the tone of its functioning but did not succeed. It was natural for them to feel stifled in such a situation. Dr Dastoor quit because of other "preoccupations" and Prof. John because he felt that, being an appointee of the Janata regime, he would be continuing at the cost of propriety. But their exit set tongues wagging about their dissatisfaction with the functioning of the Commission. So far this impression had not been dispelled.

Obvious maladies

It is, thus, not astounding that the Commission should be the central point of many an unseemly controversy. The maladies it suffered from are obvious.

First, it has been a divided house and failed to project a corporate view--this was bad but worse in the initial phase because it did not let the Commission acquire the much-needed credibility.

Secondly, the Commission betrayed a sense of misplaced priorities as it got bogged into details of narrow issues when it should have concerned itself with basic problems. There are obvious merits in attending to such questions as the socioeconomic causes of riots, educational backwardness of Muslims among the minorities, for instance.

Thirdly, the Commission had not been able to establish a rapport with allied organisations like those looking after the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and the panel dealing with the economic backwardness of the minorities. Particularly disastrous is the uncertainty in regard to the Government's attitude towards the Commission and, as mentioned earlier, the lack of precision on the part of the latter about its role.

Fourthly, the terms of reference for the Commission are too vast and the resources made available to it too little.

Perhaps a switch from the present political approach to a scientific attitude would give a meaning to the Commission's work.

This could be illustrated by the chance discovery by a senior official of the Commission relating to the state of education of Muslims during a visit to Meerut. Out of over one lakh students who appeared for the higher secondary examination last year from the district, Muslims numbered less than 900. This was so despite the fact that Muslims constituted 45 per cent of the population in urban areas and 25 per cent in villages.

Equally stunning was the figure of drop-outs at various stages, particularly after the sixth standard. It was found to be the result of problems connected with the medium of instruction. Now cannot such issues--and they are legion--be taken up by the Commission? Cannot the Commission take up studies of socio-economic factors behind communal riots, and other such subjects, if necessary with the help of specialists and professional institutions?

CSO: 4220

VENKATARAMAN REPLIES TO HOUSE BUDGET DISCUSSION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 16--The Finance Minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, today hoped to achieve an 8% industrial growth rate in 1981-82 compared to 4% in the current year and 1.4% in 1979. He also expected the estimated deficit to be reduced by the time the Finance Bill was presented.

Mr Venkataraman who was replying to the discussion on the 1981-82 Budget in the Rajya Sabha, began his 75-minute speech by quoting Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr Y. B. Chavan, both of whom had described the Budget as good.

In spite of interjections by Mr Piloo Mody(J), Mr Bhupesh Gupta and Mr Kalyan Roy, both CPI, and Mr S. Bagaitkar (LD), the Finance Minister kept his cool and finally decided "not to reply" to them.

He claimed that the Government had succeeded in bringing down the rate of inflation from 22.4% (when he took over) to 15.6% by January, 1981. He had inherited an economy which was "like a person in a delirious condition." He had to "put him in the intensive care unit and bring down the temperature." He had also inherited a record deficit of Rs 2,700 crores a "gift" of the "golden rule" of the Janata and Lok Dal Governments.

Inflation had not abated, but only "moderated" Mr Venkataraman said. The deficit had come down despite higher allocations for defence, plan and drought. The non-plan expenditure was the minimum possible. In this context, he defended subsidies for the "poor and the needy" and pointed out that the Government could not shirk "this responsibility."

The Finance Minister did not agree with the criticism of the CPI and CPI(M) that monopoly houses were being encouraged. The ruling party was wedded to the concept of a mixed economy and the Government had fixed parameters for the private sector to grow, he said. The same was true of the small and medium sectors. If a monopoly house had grown, it was because its borrowings from the Industrial Development Bank of India had increased and company assets had shot up. In any case, he was not expected to implement the election manifesto of the CPI, he said, and chuckled. Mr Bhupesh Gupta was on his feet to say "No."

He dismissed Mr Piloo Mody's argument based on per capita income. That was "deceptive" and aimed at denigrating the country for the sake of decrying the Government. India had not been described as the least developed country in the world development report or by OPEC countries. India was now an aid-giving country, Mr Venkataraman argued.

UNI adds: Mr Venkataraman said it was better to have issued special bearer bonds to mop up black money and fail, than never to have done it at all.

He likened his effort to Johnson's famous lines: "It was better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

CSO: 4220

FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM 'INVISIBLES' UP

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 16--For reasons that have still to be fully analysed, India's foreign exchange earnings from "invisibles"--the "non-trade" account--have spurted dramatically. In 1980, they were more than double the earnings in 1978 and nearly double those in 1979. "Invisible" earnings include remittances from Indians working abroad.

In 1980 the earnings reached a record Rs 4,467.28 crores, which is more than twice as much as the Rs 2,218.75 crores earned in 1978 and well above the Rs 2,775.28 crores in 1979.

This suggests that the main factor in bolstering the foreign exchange reserves in the past five years is still operating vigorously and that remittances from Indians working abroad have not gone down, as had been feared.

It also explains why, at a time when the trade deficit is expected to be a colossal Rs 4,500 crores in 1980-81, the foreign exchange reserves are still comfortable at around Rs 4,600 crores and have fallen relatively slowly over the past year.

In fact, the Finance Minister expects the reserves to decline by just Rs 600 crores by April 1. Even though credits totalling Rs 815 crores were taken from the International Monetary Fund last year, the total decline of the order of Rs 1,400 crores, at a time when the trade deficit is so large, is not much.

It is now clear that this is partly due to the remarkable spurt shown by earnings from "invisibles." Although these include receipts from shipping, tourism and the like, for the past many years the main contribution has been by millions of Indians working in West Asia, Europe and the USA.

These were thought to have reached a plateau in 1979 and to have gone down in 1980, mainly because many of the construction contracts in West Asia where Indians were employed were completed and many of the workers had returned. Despite this, it is apparent that the remittances remain not only high but are rising and it is possible that an increasing number of Indians are finding jobs abroad.

There are indications that the Iraq-Iran war, which started towards the end of September 1980 actually helped India's foreign exchange reserves. This is borne out by the fact the foreign exchange earnings from "invisibles" in September were a record Rs 689.04 crores and just slightly lower (Rs 643.37 crores) in October. They have declined sharply to Rs 231.37 crores in November but returned to the normal level of Rs 312.91 crores in December.

Earnings from "invisibles" varied from a low Rs 230.05 crores in July to September's record figure, but the monthly average for the year works out to roughly Rs 400 crores, which is much more than in previous years. Should this rate be maintained, the pressure on the reserves because of the high import bill will be eased.

The import bill is high mainly because of the cost of crude and petroleum products which account for more than 60% of export earnings and it is expected to increase in future years. Remittances by way of "invisibles" more than make up--at least at present--for the slow growth of exports.

CSO: 4220

RESERVE BANK ADVISER ON STATUTORY LIQUIDITY RATIO

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Mar 81 p 10

[Text] There is need for changing the scope of assets approved for the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) of banks. Some of the securities that are now approved for the SLR might have to be issued at market rates of interest. The implications of such a move for the financing of government, term lending institutions and state electricity boards needs to be further examined.

These observations have been made in a study on "The statutory liquidity ratio--its role and some policy issues" prepared by Dr. D. C. Rao, special adviser, Reserve Bank of India, and published in the November, 1980 issue of the RBI bulletin.

The SLR was originally introduced in the Banking Regulations Act, 1949, as a means of imposing financial discipline on the banks, and providing a measure of protection to the depositors.

In the last decade, however, the SLR has come to be used as a tool of credit planning whereby government borrowing could pre-empt a given proportion of resources mobilised by banks.

The SLR has been raised from 25 per cent in 1970 to its current level of 34 per cent in order to accommodate rapid expansion in borrowing to finance government outlays and term lending by the industrial development banks, the study points out.

The net issue of approved securities has increased at the rate of 24 per cent per annum over the past decade. The ratio of net market borrowing to plan outlays was fairly steady at 10 to 12 per cent until the Fourth Plan, but is proposed to be raised to 20 per cent in the Sixth Plan.

The government has sought to raise these rapidly growing amounts of capital with only small increases in the rate of interest, the study points out.

Increased Differential

The differential between the average yield on government securities and the rate earned by banks on their advances to prime borrowers has increased from 1 per cent in 1960 to over 2 per cent in 1965, over 3 per cent in 1970 and over 8 per

cent in 1975. This differential has remained in the range of 7-9 per cent since 1975.

In the absence of an adequate interest incentive, the requisite amount of cabital [as published] has been raised only by the compulsion provided by the SLR, the study says. Gradually, all but a negligible part of the issue of government securities is taken up by a captive market consisting of banks, other financial institutions and provident funds.

In recent years, there has emerged a serious imbalance between the amount of funds sought to be borrowed by the government and eligible institutions on the one hand and the obsorptive [as published] capacity of the captive market on the other. The automatic result of such an imbalance is that the RBI has to take up the residual portion of the issue of government securities. This is tantamount to deficit financing with its attendant monetary implications, the study points out.

While the imbalances can be reduced by raising the SLR, such a move would aggravate other problems in the banking system, especially banks' declining profitability and the emerging paucity of bank funds for medium and large industry's legitimate working capital requirements.

The study says that continuous upward pressure on the SLR is not consistent with the use of SLR as an instrument of monetary policy. Short-term changes in the SLR could be used to influence bank reserves, analogous to open market operations, provided the SLR could move both up and down, it points out.

CSO: 4220/7439

PRESS REPORTS PRELIMINARY 1981 CENSUS RESULTS

Nationwide Figures Given

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 18.

India's population is 68.38 crores now, according to the census result announced today. This marks an increase of 13.58 crores or 24.75 per cent over the figure 10 years ago. Out of every 100 persons, 35.17 are literates, the corresponding earlier figure being 29.45.

The population has doubled in the 34 years since independence, the result shows.

The Census Commissioner, Mr P. Padmanabha, who gave the details at the first-phase quick tabulations to correspondents, said the data was based on the enumeration conducted all over the country from February 9 to 28 except Assam and Jammu and Kashmir. In regard to these two States projections based on the growth pattern of the last 10 years have been taken into account. Counting was not possible in Assam because of the agitation and in Jammu and Kashmir due to climatic factors (here the work is to begin after four weeks).

According to the census results, males continue to outnumber females — 35.33 crores against 33.04 crores. This means there are 935 females for every 1,000 males against 930 in 1971. The literacy ratio of males is higher than that of females, 46.74 in the first case and 24.88 in the second. The density of population shows a marked increase — it is now 221 persons a sq. kilometre against 177 ten years ago.

Around the turn of the century, Mr. Padmanabha told a questioner, the population would be around 95 crores, provided fertility declines according to expectation. He would not hazard a guess, on the basis of the information available so far, about the efficacy of the family planning efforts. For a correct evaluation one had to wait, he said, for the break-up of the data, so as to be clear about the growth trends in various age-groups.

A firm conclusion would be possible only when it is known how much of the increase is due to higher longevity and how much because of other factors.

Kerala is an exception to the general pattern, for here women outnumber men. There are 1034 females for every 1000 males in the State. The Census Commissioner said that this could not be due only to the migration of men to places outside the State for work. The ratio of women is the lowest—below 860—in some pockets of western UP and northern Madhya Pradesh.

Kerala continues to top in literacy ratio, with a percentage of 69.17. It is followed by Chandigarh (54.69), Delhi (51.05), Mizoram (39.50), Goa (55.89), Lakshadweep (54.72), Pondicherry (54.23) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (51.27).

The growth rate of population since 1971 is marginally lower than that of the previous decade, though it continues to be much higher than what it was earlier. The comparative figures are as follows:

Decade	Growth rate (in per cent)
1901-11	+ 5.75
1911-21	— 0.31
1921-31	+11.00
1931-41	+14.22
1941-51	+13.31
1951-61	+21.51
1961-71	+24.80
1971-81	+24.75

The density of population from 1901 has been increasing continuously as is clear from the following figures:

Census Year	Density (per sq. km.)
1901	77
1911	82
1921	81
1931	90
1941	103
1951	117
1961	142
1971	177
1981	221

The sex ratio has fluctuated in the last 80 years but the range has been narrow:

Census Year	Sex Ratio
1901	972
1911	964
1921	955
1931	95[illegible]
1941	[illegible]46
1951	946
1961	941
1971	930
1981	935

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Mar 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 18

India's current population is put at 68 crores on the basis of the 1981 census taken last month.

The provisional population totals are as follows:

	(Persons)	(Males)	(Females)
India	68,38,10,051	35,33,47,249	33,04,62,802
States			
Andhra Pradesh	5,34,03,619	2,70,35,531	2,63,68,088
Assam(x)	1,99,02,828	1,04,72,712	94,30,114
Bihar	6,98,23,154	3,58,65,467	3,39,57,687
Gujarat	3,39,60,905	1,74,84,540	1,64,76,365
Haryana	1,28,50,902	68,46,153	60,04,749
Himachal Pradesh	42,37,589	21,31,312	21,06,257
Jammu/Kashmir(+)	59,81,600	30,62,200	29,19,400
Karnataka	3,70,43,451	1,88,69,494	1,81,73,957
Kerala	2,54,03,217	1,24,87,961	1,29,15,256
Madhya Pradesh	5,21,31,717	2,68,56,752	2,52,74,965
Maharashtra	6,26,93,808	3,23,41,115	3,03,52,783
Manipur	14,33,691	7,27,108	7,06,583
Meghalaya	13,27,824	6,78,833	6,48,991
Nagaland	7,73,281	4,14,231	3,59,050
Orissa	2,62,72,054	1,32,53,523	1,30,18,531
Punjab	1,68,68,755	88,40,234	78,29,521
Rajasthan	3,41,02,912	1,77,49,282	1,63,53,630
Sikkim	3,15,692	1,71,969	1,43,723
Tamil Nadu	4,82,97,456	2,44,20,228	2,38,77,228
Tripura	20,60,189	10,57,714	10,02,475
Uttar Pradesh	11,08,58,019	5,87,80,640	5,20,77,379
West Bengal	5,44,85,560	2,85,05,151	2,59,80,409
Union Territories			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,88,254	1,08,889	81,365
Arunachal Pradesh	6,28,050	3,35,941	2,92,109
Chandigarh	4,50,081	2,54,208	1,95,853
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1,03,677	52,514	51,163
Delhi	61,98,414	34,22,560	27,73,884
Goa, Daman/Diu	10,82,117	5,46,260	5,35,857
Lakshadweep	51,237	20,367	19,870
Mizoram	4,87,774	2,51,988	2,35,786
Pondicherry	6,04,136	3,04,342	2,99,794

Literates

	(Persons)	(Males)	(Females)
India	23,79,91,932	15,88,37,215	7,91,54,717
Andhra Pradesh	1,59,89,286	1,05,78,388	54,10,878
Assam(x)	—	—	—
Bihar	1,81,63,410	1,35,51,736	46,11,674
Gujarat	1,46,58,075	93,34,470	53,23,605
Haryana	46,05,649	32,71,047	13,34,602
Himachal Pradesh	17,77,201	11,15,973	6,61,228
J and K (+)	—	—	—
Karnataka	1,42,28,947	91,71,677	50,57,270
Kerala	1,75,71,819	92,44,609	83,27,210
Madhya Pradesh	1,45,02,063	1,05,74,919	39,27,144
Maharashtra	2,98,95,721	1,90,46,963	1,08,48,758
Manipur	6,01,943	3,85,123	2,16,820
Meghalaya	4,41,077	2,51,056	1,90,021



(+) Census operations began on April 20.

Population of Major Cities

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 81 p 13

[Text] New Delhi, March 18 (UNI)--With 9,165,650 people Calcutta is the most thickly populated city in the country, according to 1981 census figures. Greater Bombay comes next with 8,202,759 followed by Delhi with 5,227,730 and Madras 4,276,635.

Men outnumber women in all 12 cities where the population is above one million. In all four metropolitan cities, the literacy percentage was above sixty with Greater Bombay at the top with 68,16. Sex-wise also, Bombay accounts for more literates--males 74.43 per cent and females [as published]

The following table shows the total population in the 12 largest cities:

Urban Agglomerations Cities		Total Population 1981 -- Persons	Males	Females
1		2	3	4
1. Calcutta	(UA)	9,165,650	5,140,019	4,025,631
2. Greater Bombay (M. Corp.)		8,202,759	4,620,092	3,582,667
3. Delhi	(UA)	5,227,730	2,888,595	2,339,135
4. Madras	(UA)	4,276,635	2,215,522	2,061,113
5. Bangalore	(UA)	2,913,537	1,538,796	1,374,741
6. Hyderabad	(UA)	2,565,536	1,342,866	1,222,670
7. Ahmedabad	(UA)	2,515,195	1,346,730	1,168,465
8. Kanpur	(UA)	1,685,308	934,316	750,992
9. Pune	(UA)	1,685,266	896,593	788,673
10. Nagpur	(UA)	1,297,977	679,427	618,550
11. Lucknow	(UA)	1,006,843	548,891	457,952
12. Jaipur	(UA)	1,004,669	538,118	466,551

CSO: 4220

MINISTER REPORTS ON BHEL 'TIE-UP' WITH SIEMENS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] Industry Minister Charanjit Chanana informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday that the BHEL was not going in for any new "total foreign collaboration" with the Siemens as such, but importing certain equipments and know-how necessary to "fill in technological gaps" to update the available technology.

Replying to a question by Mr K. P. Singh Deo (C-I), Mr Chanana said during Janata rule there was a proposal for an "umbrella agreement" with the Siemens. Currently R and D efforts of the BHEL had been able to identify three types of products in which import of technology was necessary.

The Government was at present examining these three productwise proposals advanced by the BHEL for approval, he said. These related to (a) manufacture of SF 6 and vacuum circuit breakers with Siemens; (b) manufacture of AC and DC motors with Siemens; and (c) enlargement of the scope of the existing agreement with Kraftwerk Union for the Manufacture of turbo-generators of lower rating below 200 megawatts.

Mr Singh Deo was insistent on knowing if the technology being provided by Siemens was the latest or not, in view of the well-established fact that these multinationals "sell junk" to developing countries.

Mr Chanana said Siemens and KWU were willing to provide "full know-how and know-why in areas of accelerating indigenous research and development efforts."

When Mr Singh Deo wanted to know the foreign exchange involved in realising the proposals, Mr Chanana said till such time as the Government was able to examine all details it was not possible to give any precise estimate of the foreign exchange involved.

Dr Subramanium Swamy (J) was keen to get an assurance from the Industry Minister that there would be no foreign collaboration in acquiring technology for equipments less than 200 megawatts as the BHEL itself had developed its own technological expertise and its products had earned world renown. Mr Chanana repeated that the present proposals were confined to filling in "technological gaps" in 200 megawatt technology.

The Centre, together with State Governments, has initiated a nucleus plant programme for structurally integrated industrialisation supported by a package of measures to help entrepreneurs in setting up small units in backward districts, adds PTI, Dr Chanana told Mr Pius Tirkey.

He said factors that inhibited growth of small-scale industries in backward districts varied according to local conditions of each backward district.

The main handicaps related to lack of infrastructure, long loans in respect of raw materials supply and markets and relative inaccessibility to promotional organisations and agencies he said.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER REPORTS ON BENGAL LAND DISTRIBUTION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Calcutta, March 12--West Bengal Minister for Land and Land Reforms Benoy Krishna Choudhury told the Legislative Assembly today it was not unlikely that 40 lakh acres of land would be ceiling surplus in the State which has 139 lakh acres under the plough.

Mr Choudhury also said that only four per cent of the households in the countryside owned 31 per cent of land in the State. The Minister was replying to the debate in the House over the demands for grants for his Ministry.

He said that the land reforms department of the Government was carefully treading the ground, because of various complexities and complications in the entire land situation. The main stress, however, was on strengthening the position, of the weaker sections even though gradually.

Mr Choudhury said that he would not rest until the last share cropper in the State was registered.

The Minister did not support the idea of consolidation of small plots of land, because, he felt, it would benefit only the rich peasants. Instead he would try to form cooperative societies which would supply to the poor peasants all the inputs for agricultural production.

According to the statistics the total area of vested agricultural land in West Bengal so far was 12.11 lakh acres. Of the total, 6.73 lakh acres were already distributed. About 3.58 lakh acres were available for distribution and 1.79 lakh acres were involved in court injunctions.

In 1980 the total agricultural land distributed was 59392 acres, and in the same year 34437 acres were vested in the Government.

Share croppers registered till 31 December, 1980 numbered 1.02 million. The Minister also said that the comprehensive land reforms bill was ready and was likely to be placed before the Assembly soon.

Participating in the debate, CPI leader Biswanath Mukherjee said that mass organisations of the peasants and farm labourers should be associated with the administration in the matter of land reforms measures. This was necessary, particularly, in the matter of distribution of vested land, he said.

Mr Mukherjee pointed out that like during the Congress re' me, gross injustice was being done to deserving people in the matter of distr ution of land. There were many cases where the deserving were not being given land while the undeserving got.

BJP member V K Shastri said that the land reforms department's emphasis was more on political slogans than on fundamental breakthrough in production in the countryside.

CSO: 4220

STEPS TO SUPPORT SMALL INDUSTRIES RECOMMENDED

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Mar 81 p 8

[Article by Nitish Chakravarty]

> [A national commission for small industry is required to be set up to go into the complex problems of the entrepreneur who is faced with a maze of regulations. The small-scale sector has made strides but it is not over the hump.

The small-scale sector has made a significant contribution to India's emergence as the world's tenth most industrialised nation. Both in terms of quantity and variety, small industries have come to occupy a prominent place in the national economy. From only 16,000 units in 1950, the number of small-scale enterprises has swelled to eight lakhs--3.86 lakhs of them registered with the authorities, the rest being non-registered.

The rate of expansion has been spectacular in recent years. While industry as a whole has been able to achieve a compound growth rate of five per cent, the small-scale sector has grown at a compound rate of 10.8 per cent. The rate of growth has further increased now to 17 or 18 per cent. The value of the output of the sector has gone up from Rs 11,000 crores in 1975-76 to almost Rs 21,000 crores in 1979-80.

Nearly 70 lakh persons are directly employed by the small sector, and they make up 38 per cent of the country's total industrial employment. It has a share of 40 per cent in the industrial output of units regulated by the Directorate-General of Technical Development. Small industries every year are claiming a larger share of exports. From less than a 10 per cent share in exports in 1971-72, it has increased to almost 20 per cent. In non-traditional items, it accounts for over 40 per cent of the exports.

Government policy has been directed towards the strengthening of the small-scale sector including village, cottage and tiny units. Assistance is available at different stages right from the selection of the line of production.

Bank Credit

To promote small industries, banks have been asked to give them priority in the allocation of credit. Banks are expected to raise the ratio of advances to the

priority sector from 33.3 per cent of their total advances to 40 per cent. The credit made available to small-scale units has gone up from Rs 1,040.4 crores to Rs 2,066 crores during the past five years. Small units having credit limits not exceeding Rs 2 lakhs and covered by the Credit Guarantee Scheme have been exempted from the minimum lending rate.

Beginning in a small way with simple consumer items, the small-scale sector has diversified itself in recent years into some highly precision-oriented products. A wide variety of consumption goods like readymade garments, stationery items, leather and leather goods, rubber and plastics, sheet metal products, soaps and detergents, preserved foods and vegetables and wooden and steel furniture are now made by small industries.

Sophisticated Items

They have also gone in for sophisticated goods like television sets, electronic control systems, transistors, hearing aids, microwave components, electro-medical equipment such as cardiac pace makers and electro-cardiograph machines, digital measuring equipment, drugs, pharmaceuticals and pesticide formulations.

New items constantly are being added. No wonder the number of items to be purchased by Government departments exclusively from the small sector has been raised by 138 to a total of 379.

The boom in small-scale industry has led to the emergence of a new class of entrepreneurs drawn from various walks of life and different levels of society. Qualitative changes in business attitudes have come about with educated young men and also women taking to industry. The infrastructural base has become broader and the tradition of educated youths looking for white collar jobs alone has undergone a change.

Clear Policy Lacking

The strides made by the small sector tend to give the impression that it is over the hump. Its problems are becoming increasingly complex, and the young entrepreneur is often baffled by a maze of regulatory measures.

The woes of the industrialists stem from the lack of a clear policy perspective. The Government tends to look upon the small industry as a weak child which cannot do without crutches. Yet incentives and subsidies are given as doles rather than on the basis of a well-conceived strategy.

One view shared by entrepreneurs and those engaged in promoting the growth of the small-scale sector is that the problems would remain unresolved so long as there is no change in the attitude of the policy makers.

The Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India and the National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs repeatedly have drawn the Government's attention to the need for straightening out the procedures and relieving the small-scale sector from harassment at the hands of all manner of rule enforcement

authorities. One suggestion that has yet to find acceptance is the creation at the centre of a separate department of small industries headed by a Cabinet Minister.

Advisory Panels

The involvement of organisations of small industries in various bodies regulating their functions as well as the enactment of a separate labour legislation for this sector have been suggested not only by the industry itself but by committees appointed by the Government. Little has been done not only in this direction but even in implementing the suggestion that half the members of the Small-Scale Industry Board and its standing committees should be from the industry itself.

It has been urged that canalising bodies for imported inputs should have effective advisory panels as their working hinders, rather than helps, small industries. Advisory bodies on taxation, raw materials and testing facilities should similarly have representatives of the small-scale sector. The creation of data banks for collecting, collating, analysing and disseminating reliable information useful to small industries can be an important step.

It is felt that compulsory registration of small industries would go a long way in ensuring their balanced growth. Entrepreneurs are of the view that the development of infrastructure should receive priority and the small-scale sector should have a 50 per cent share in the funds allocated for industrial growth. The rationalisation of the interest structure so that it ceases to be a heavy burden is an old demand. Banks, some feel, should be required by law to show in their balance-sheets the amount of loans and advances they make available to small units. The creation of a small industry development bank, an insurance scheme as a hedge against the erosion of capital and a national equity fund are other suggestions.

Raw Materials

Some feel that small entrepreneurs can get over their financial worries to some extent if large houses buying their products are compelled by law to make payments within specified time limits. Amendment of the company law to relieve small industries from its irksome provisions which only add to management costs without making any contribution to productivity can help to improve the working of small units. Their financial resources can improve if a limited partnership law is enacted.

A major grievance of small industries is discrimination in the allocation of raw materials. In the case of large industries, the norms usually adhered to is multiple shift operation but small-scale industry is allocated inputs on the assumption that it operates only on a single shift basis. The rate of capacity utilisation should be the basis for the allocation of steel, coal and cement.

A new inventory policy is called for to ensure the stockpiling of strategic raw materials by major suppliers at convenient points and the introduction of

pool retention prices wherever the production costs of various units vary widely or when there are similar variations in imported and indigenous prices. The small-scale sector also wants a parity between its costs and the prices of similar items imported from abroad through the mechanism of import duty.

The Union Industry Minister, Dr Charanjit Chanana, spoke of his plan in August last year to create a buffer stock of critical raw materials which would be operated by a designated national agency to remove the anomalies in the existing distribution pattern. The contents of the buffer stock basket would vary from area to area but till now it has not got off the ground.

Indecision characterises other aspects of administrative functioning. The Janata Government had launched a scheme of district industries centres to act as catalysts of small industry development. As soon as the Congress(I) came to power, the scheme fell out of favour, though it was realised later that its basic concept was not without merit. But in the absence of a clear decision about the future of the scheme it has lost much of its usefulness in the past one year.

Social Welfare

It is widely recognised that small-scale, particularly cottage and tiny industries have a useful role to play in harnessing locally available raw materials though labour intensive methods and in thus creating employment opportunities for millions who remain without any gainful occupation. But the time has come to decide whether small industries should be regarded chiefly as instruments of social welfare through increased employment and a wider dispersal of income or also as a key element in economic growth.

If social welfare becomes the objective of small industry rather than small industry being an instrument for achieving this aim, it will always need to be on crutches. Whether employment generation should be the primary objective of industrial growth or the small-scale sector should aim at augmenting the supply of consumer goods, which in turn will expand opportunities, also needs to be assessed.

Share in Plan Funds

The diminishing shape of the small-scale sector in Five Year Plan funds suggests that the concern voiced about it is not always genuine. In the first Five-Year Plan, the small-scale sector had a 2.1 per cent share in an overall outlay of Rs 3,760 crores. In the Second Plan, it shot up to four per cent but came down to 2.8 per cent in the Third. In the three annual Plans from 1966-67 to 1968-69, it got only 1.9 per cent of the funds. In the Fourth Plan, its share dipped to 1.5 per cent and continued at the same level in the Fifth. In the newly approved Sixth Plan of Rs 116,000 crores, the outlay of Rs 1,780 crores on the small-scale sector is about 1.5 per cent.

One of the declared objectives of the national Plans is to use small industries for mobilising resources of capital and skills in rural areas to help

raise the standard of income and living of artisans and craftsmen and remove regional disparities through a deliberate policy of encouraging growth in villages and semi-urban centres. But the concentration of small industries in certain States and in certain regions within a State has distorted the objective.

An analysis of the credit made available to small enterprises by banks highlights this distortion. As of December 31, 1979, public sector banks had given Rs 242.77 crores to 102.287 small units in Tamil Nadu, while 49,178 units in Maharashtra had got Rs 462.48 crores, 36,843 units in Gujarat got Rs 215.79 crores and 24,981 units in Punjab received Rs 162.17 crores and 10,691 units in Delhi got Rs 139.37 crores.

In Andhra Pradesh 53,469 small-scale units got Rs 114.76 crores from banks, Karnataka's 45,622 units Rs 143.82 crores and Kerala's 28,055 units Rs 94.76 crores, but Bihar's 31,741 units received Rs 68.19 crores, Orissa's 22,130 units Rs 21.43 crores and Assam's 12,444 units Rs 15.16 crores. In U.P. 75,904 enterprises obtained credit amounting to Rs 206.11 crores and 51,182 units in West Bengal Rs 188.27 crores.

In other words of the total flow of Rs 2,3222.54 [as published] crores from the public sector banks to the small-scale sector at the end of 1979 as much as 20 per cent was available in Maharashtra alone. Madhya Pradesh, one of the largest States had a share of less than five per cent and U.P. with 16 per cent of the nation's population had a nine per cent share of the funds made available by the nationalised banks to small industries.

It is felt that the time has come to take a fresh look at the policy parameters which in some respects have become a millstone round the neck of the small entrepeneur. The suggestion that a national commission should be set up to go into various aspects of the growth of small industries and to devise solutions to their problems deserves consideration.

CSO: 4220

BARGES TO TRANSFER BUILDING SUPPLIES TO NORTHEAST

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 15. The State-owned Central inland Water Transport Corporation will acquire, hire or charter the required number of "pusher tugs" and barges to transport at least 50,000 tonnes of steel, cement and road construction material between May and October this year against its normal carrying capacity of about 2,500 tonnes per month.

This is in pursuance of the Union Government's decision that during the coming monsoon season the flooded waters of Bhagirathi, Hooghly and Brahmaputra rivers should be beneficially utilised to transport huge quantities of road construction and building material to some selected points in the North-Eastern region.

To augment CIETC's carrying capacity the Government has already sanctioned schemes costing around Rs 34.20 crores for acquisition of tugs and barges; repairs to the existing vessels, repairs and improvement to the Rajbagan dockyard and modernisation of infrastructural facilities. The acquisition of new pusher tugs and self-propelled barges may take sometime and it is proposed to charter or hire the required number of vessels to meet the challenge.

A huge quantity of materials has to be transported to Gauhati, Pandi and Karimganj as an integral part of the ambitious road-building programmes and other development works in the North-Eastern region. The river water transport operations will be in addition to the normal rail and road transport operations in the region.

The Government attaches great importance to the movement of such basic material for giving fillip to development works. The total cost, including that of transportation of barges to and from their area of operations will be subsidised by the Government.

A monitoring cell is being established by the Shipping and Transport Ministry to oversee the implementation aspect of this programme.

CIWTC is currently running services on these routes: Calcutta-Gauhati via Bangladesh; Calcutta-Karimganj via Bangladesh; Calcutta-Narayanganj (Bangladesh); Calcutta-Khulna (Bangladesh); and Calcutta-Haldia. The road cum river services between Calcutta and Tripura are also managed by the corporation. CIWTC has a fleet of 146 vessels of different capacities. A large number of them have become old and are due for replacement.

CSO: 4220

PRESS AGENCY REPORTS CRISIS IN OPIUM EXPORT TRADE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 81 p 8

[Text]

INDIA'S opium exports, the world's largest, are in a crisis, reports UNI.

Stocks of about 1,800 tonnes of opium have piled up over the past few years which India finds difficult to dispose in the international markets.

According to official sources, with this year's production of opium, the accumulated stocks are likely to move up to about 2,000 tonnes—about one-third of India's total opium production.

Nearly 1,17,000 families engaged in the cultivation of opium are faced with bleak prospects of income as bulk of the opium produced in the country is for exports, domestic consumption being very little.

The entry of some countries in the international markets has forced the traditional suppliers—India and Turkey—to cut down their exports. This has also resulted in a sharp decrease in the area under opium cultivation and a steep fall in its production.

Officially available figures for the past three years show that India's exports fell from 978 tonnes in 1977-78 to 788 tonnes in 1979-80. During the first nine months of 1980-81 India could export only 450 tonnes.

Harvested area in the three opium growing States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan has gone down considerably.

The licensed area under opium cultivation shrunk further during 1980-81 to 26974.84 hectares compared to previous year's 40171.68 hectares which according to the pattern suggests a further decrease in the harvested area during the year.

In Madhya Pradesh last years crop has also been very bad. Therefore, many farmers have decided not to take to opium cultivation again. Already the area under cultivation in the State has gone down steeply from 27,975.20 hectares in 1977-78 to 12053.88 hectares in 1979-80.

In Rajasthan the area under opium cultivation has decreased from 17230.26 hectares in 1977-78 to 1142.64 hectares in 1979-80 and in Uttar Pradesh from 18879.14 hectares to 10980.77 hectares, in the same period.

CSO: 4220

JUTE CORPORATION TO RESUME COMMERCIAL OPERATION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] The Jute Corporation of India will resume commercial operation with raw jute during the coming season beginning in July. No such commercial operation has been undertaken this season. The JCI has been allowed to resume commercial operation on the condition that it incurs no less in this venture.

It is learnt that the JCI's commercial operation will include sales to six nationalized jute mills whose total annual requirement of raw jute is about 600,000 bales. Efforts will also be made to have commercial deals with private jute mills on a prior sales basis so that no risk is involved in the operation.

The JCI had decided to undertake commercial operation in 1977-78, but no sales could be made because the decision was taken too late in the season. In 1978-79 following the 50-day strike in jute mills in February, the demand for raw jute fell and the JCI could not undertake any commercial operation. It did not undertake any commercial operation this season because of a glut in the market as a result of a bumper crop.

The production this year, is estimated to be eight million bales and the market price has fallen much below the statutory minimum price because of the surplus production. The JCI has procured about one million bales of raw jute as a price support measure this season. Even then it has failed to stop the distress sale of raw jute by farmers. It has decided to procure two million bales of raw jute as a price support measuring during the coming season.

In the beginning of the season from July, 1980, the industry had a carry-over stock of three million bales, including 1.6 million bales in the JCI's godowns. The new season is expected to start with an equal amount of carry-over stock. This season, the JCI has so far been able to sell about 1.2 million bales, including 100,000 bales sold to foreign countries. Not much could be achieved on the export front because of the glut in the world market.

CSO: 4220

DROUGHT CAUSES KARNATAKA TO SEEK MORE GRAIN

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Mar 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 16.

The Karnataka Government has sought from the Centre increased allotment of wheat, rice, edible oil and cement in the wake of the reported widespread drought in the State.

Mr. Manik Rao Patil, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, now here to apprise the Central Government of the gravity of the situation, had a meeting with the Union Civil Supplies Minister, Mr. V. C. Shukla, and urged increase in allocation of petroleum today.

He is scheduled to meet the Agriculture Minister, Rao Birendra Singh and the Industries Minister, Dr. Charanjit Chanana, during his stay here.

According to Mr. Patil, 14 out of the 19 districts in the State are in the grip of famine and as a result availability of foodgrains, oilseeds and edible oil have been affected. The State Government wants the allotment of petroleum oil to be raised to 5,000 tonnes a month from the present 2,000 tonnes till the end of September to tide over the situation.

The State Government also wants 2,000 tonnes of red rapeseed oil to be allotted for feeding the vanaspathy factories in the State. For want of red rapeseed oil, six vanaspathy units in the State have been closed down, the State Government has told the Centre.

Mr. Patil told pressmen that Mr. Shukla responded favourably and promised to increase the allotment of petroleum oil.

So far as foodgrains are concerned, Mr. Patil said the allotment of wheat and rice now being made to the State was grossly inadequate to meet the needs of the increased population. He sought an allotment of 50,000 tonnes of wheat and 25,000 tonnes of rice per month. The present level of allotment was 25,000 tonnes of wheat and 12,500 tonnes of rice.

The State Government argued that due to drought conditions, wheat and paddy crop had been affected and the consequent reduction in supply had hit the consumers in the northern parts of the State who were not accustomed to rice.

Apart from this, there had been increase in population of Bangalore during the last four or five years by five lakhs. The inflow of population had been mainly from North Indian States. This had pushed up the demand for wheat. Hence it was urged that till September, the Centre should allot 50,000 tonnes of wheat per month of which 40,000 tonnes would be for roller flour mills and the balance for the public distribution system.

So far as cement was concerned, the State Government wanted the quarterly allotment to be raised to 3.25 lakh tonnes in addition to an ad hoc allotment of two lakh tonnes.

CSO: 4220

DEFENSE SCIENTISTS DEVELOP NEW TANK AMMUNITION, ARMOR

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 30 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (UNI).

A sophisticated tank ammunition and a hard-to-pierce armour material have been developed by Indian defence scientists for the proposed main battle tank.

According to defence ministry sources, the defence research and development organisation (DRDO) has tried the new armour material with very "promising results." This material can compare with those used by technologically-advanced countries.

The ammunition, called fin stabilised armour-piercing discarding sabot (FS APDS), has been developed as part of the Vijayanta modernisation programme.

The first prototype of the indigenous 1,500-horse power aircooled engine for the tank has been successfully tested. Work on increasing the lethality of the Vijayanta tank is also in progress.

The DRDO laboratories have been integrated to form complexes at Hyderabad, Bangalore, Pune and Delhi to make optimum use of the facilities and for sharing expertise.

This will also make them more effective in handling the multi-disciplinary research and development programmes leading to the development of major systems required by the defence services.

Meanwhile, the DRDO, in collaboration with Bharat Electronics, has developed a sonar system for detecting submarines. This system will be fitted to the frigates being manufactured by Mazgaon Dock, Bombay.

The sources said these developments would save considerable foreign exchange and make the country self-reliant.

The DRDO has also undertaken another activity in the field of avalanche forcasting [as published] and control, which has considerable civil application. Studies carried out in this field have led to the development of acoustic techniques for avalanche forecasting. The advance warning system has helped in saving military personnel and civilians.

A bio-medical complex is being formed at Delhi and a Himalayan research complex is being set up to study problems relating to high altitude.

CSO: 4220/7439

BANGALORE FIRM TO MANUFACTURE JAGUAR AIRCRAFT

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 17. The Jaguar strike aircraft will be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., (HAL), Bangalore. The first batch which will come out by the middle of 1982, said Mr A. R. Keys, Executive Director of British Aerospace (aircraft group), here today.

Mr Keys was replying to a question at a news conference addressed by Mr B. D. Blackwell, President of the Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) Ltd., London, which is organising a British aviation seminar and exhibition in New Delhi and later this month in Bangalore.

Mr Keys who was guarded in his replies to questions on the uncertainty over the Jaguar manufacturing programme, however, cited in support of his statement that the Jaguar would be made in India what the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, had said earlier, i.e., that the Jaguar programme was being implemented.

When his attention was drawn to report that the Government would be exercising its options in this regard relating to the progressive manufacture of the Jaguar from the earlier stages, Mr Keys said, "there are no options in the contract."

He parried further questions by saying that it was entirely up to the Government of India to take decisions relating to the implementation of the contract.

Mr Keys said the Jaguars delivered to India had got off to a "cracking start" and were flying very successfully with the Indian Air Force. Twelve Jaguars took part in the Republic Day fly-past.

Mr Blackwell said the present seminar and exhibition representing over 300 British aviation companies, were intended to "renew and refresh the relationship" of British Aerospace with India.

During their stay in India, British Aerospace officials will brief Indian officials and representatives of airlines on the recent technological advances in Britain's aerospace industry. Some of the meetings will be attended by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, U.K. Under-Secretary of State for India.

CSO: 4220

SCIENTIST REFUTES ARTICLE ON PROTOTYPE PLANE

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Mr R. C. Mishra, President, Defence Scientists Association, GTRE Chapter, Bangalore writes:

We are most grateful for your observations with regard to the engine development at GTRE (in the article "Poor Support Facilities to Design New Aircraft" in "The Hindu Survey of Indian Industry, 1980"). However, there is one point we would like to clarify. This is important for us because this subject had come up in the press on earlier occasions also.

The second HF 24 Mk IR prototype was not cancelled because of the accident. The decision to cancel the second prototype aircraft had been taken much earlier in June 1968 itself.

HF 24 Mk IR did not suffer from any thrust deficiency. In fact, while installing the reheat engine, the aircraft drag had gone up. This is a matter which is entirely under the control of the aircraft designers and it is not necessarily true that whenever a reheat system is installed, the aircraft drag goes up simultaneously. In spite of this to overcome this drag steps had been taken to provide additional power in the engine for HF 24 Mk IR which was developed by GTRE.

The Air Force had shown keen interest to have the Mk IR aircraft much after the aircraft accident and, in fact, a decision was also taken to build 15 preproduction model. The reason for cancellation of this particular project is not known to us.

The aircraft did not meet with an accident because of engine failure. The above has been clarified against Parliament queries as well.

CSO: 4220

COMMISSION FACES PROBLEMS IN SETTING ENERGY POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Mar 81 p 6

[Article by V.S.P. Kurup]

[Text] At long last the government has thought it necessary to have an energy policy and, as a first step, has announced the setting up of a commission to develop alternative sources of energy. But the compass of this policy direction is not yet clear.

Of a total outlay of Rs 97,500 crores in the public sector proposed in the sixth plan, Rs 26,000 crores, or more than 27 per cent, has been earmarked for energy development. The massive allocation is in fact a challenge to our engineers and scientists.

In the advanced countries, considerable progress has been made in developing renewable sources of energy. For instance, hundreds of thousands of urban homes and offices in Japan are being heated or cooled, as the case may be, by solar energy. Windmills are going up in the American mid-west to pump water for irrigation, grind corn and generate electricity. Hospitals, hotels and homes in hundreds all over western Europe are switching over to solar geysers for meeting their hot water requirements. An increasing number of industries in Australia are turning to the sun for all their process heat needs.

Solar Heater

Indian technologists have shown that most of the needs of the villages for pumping water, drying foodgrains, cooking food and running farm machinery can be met by solar, wind and biogas energy systems. Solar water heaters are also being installed in many hotels and public buildings in the south. At least one textile mill in Ahmedabad is meeting all its hot water requirements through the use of a huge solar heater. As if to set an example and highlight the government's new emphasis on the use of solar energy wherever feasible, the Prime Minister's house in New Delhi switched over to a solar water heating system some time ago. All these are encouraging signs.

Once the photo-voltaic modules being developed indigenously become competitive with conventional power packs, a new vista will be opened in the use of solar energy. To illustrate the immense possibilities, it is enough to give three

examples. The solar modules developed by the government-owned Central Electronics Limited are already powering the lighthouse beacon at Dwaraka port, pumping water for a whole village in Rajasthan and lighting a 20-bed hospital in Ladakh.

Biogas is another important energy option available to us. Though some socio-technical problems still impede its propagation, about Rs 80,000 biogas plants are working in rural India today. Gas production from these plants works out at about 99.82 million cubic metres, equivalent to 62 million litres of kerosene. But this is only a fraction of the full potential. According to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission which is spearheading the efforts to popularise biogas plants, the country has a potential for 30 lakh plants on the basis of an estimated 300 million cattle.

Solar energy and biogas apart, other renewable sources of energy that are of some importance to India are wind power, wave and tidal energy, geothermal springs and biomass. None of these sources may amount to much separately but in suitable combinations they can offer an energy-mix that will meet a substantial part of our requirements.

Ironically, we do not have reliable data on various options available and this renders any meaningful planning difficult. The energy commission's first job will, therefore, be to compile a comprehensive manual on all sources of non-conventional energy. In the case of solar energy, for instance, data on its geographical distribution, seasonal and daily variations, feasibility of storage appropriate for the end-use and so on, are essential. Evaluation of the technical facilities and expertise available in each field is also imperative.

Happily India is in a better position than many other third world countries to take on the challenge of developing alternative energy systems. For one thing, being a tropical country, India has plenty of sunshine, rain and an immense range of biomass. Secondly, science and technology here are fairly well developed. We have also the necessary infrastructure facilities and enough scientific personnel to undertake development work without disrupting on-going programmes.

Waste of Resources

This is not to say there are no weaknesses and shortcomings. There are many weaknesses and shortcomings. There are many and some of them are serious ones. For instance, the efforts to develop alternative sources of energy are being made by a number of agencies and institutions under different authorities. This has resulted in a collossal wastage of resources and duplication of work. Also nothing much is being done to exploit the new techniques already developed. There is practically no purposeful direction and sense of urgency in carrying out the research programmes. To cap it all, industry, which should promptly utilise any new development in the energy does not seem to be interested in doing so.

It is not enough to develop and exploit new and renewable sources of energy. Along with this there is also an urgent need to save and conserve energy. Energy consumption is no more an index of progress, whereas energy conservation is.

The energy commission is thus faced with an onerous task. It has not only to lay down broad policy guidelines, but also to ensure that they are followed in practice.

CSO: 4220

MINISTER TELLS STATUS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] Madras, March 15. The Department of Science and Technology proposes to set up at least one pilot project in every district of the country, utilising renewable sources of energy like the sun, wind and tidal waves.

Mr C.P.N. Singh, Union Minister of State for Science, Technology and Electronics, who gave this information to newsmen at the airport on Sunday said 60 pilot projects were now functioning. During the past three years the Research and Development programme in the areas of solar energy had mainly concentrated on development of systems based on thermal effects of solar radiation, and technology for direct conversion of solar energy into electricity.

A major project costing about Rs 12 crores over five years, including large-scale applications of photovoltaic systems in rural areas for a variety of purposes (with emphasis on water pumping for drinking and minor irrigation), had been drawn up.

In the meantime, a short term programme to be completed by 1981 for fabrication and field demonstration of solar photovoltaic pump sets of about 25 watts aggregate capacity had been finalised. In order to formulate a viable programme at national level in the area of solar drying system, a working group of experts had been constituted.

A major dynamic thrust was now being given to develop family and community-size biogas plants. The use of biological systems by harnessing solar energy could be a very effective mechanism, especially to check environmental pollution, resource depletion and promotion of decentralised energy supply.

Production of power could be decentralised and cost reduced by taking up execution of micro-hydel projects catering to the power requirements of small groups of villages in the local area. Five years hence, the conventional energy generation machinery would be more expensive than the photovoltaic system, he said.

Referring to air pollution and denudation of forests due to burning of wood fuel in rural areas, he said that these would lead to serious ecological

imbalance. Introduction of electric trolley buses in Delhi was being envisaged to conserve diesel and to combat pollution. The future lay in battery-operated cars. The Department proposed to commission 10 such vehicles by next year.

Mr Singh said wind energy could be tapped in a big way as the country had a long coastline with high velocity wind in areas like Ladakh, the northeastern States and the western ghats.

Mr Singh, arrived here today from Delhi and later left for Tiruchi on a tour of Thanjavur and Tiruchi districts.

CSO: 4220

REFINERY CAPACITY TO BE EXPANDED IN SIXTH PLAN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Mar 81 p 8

[Text]

THE Government proposes to expand the installed capacity of the refineries to 44.55 million tonnes per annum by the end of the Sixth Plan, reports UNI.

With the commissioning of the Mathura Refinery this year, the country's refining capacity in terms of crude throughout will be increased to 37.80 million tonnes per annum.

Against the present installed capacity of 31.80 million tonnes, the achievable intake of crude during 1980-81 is estimated at 28.82 million tonnes. But this is not likely to be achieved since the Bongaigaon Refinery is operating at half its installed capacity of one million tonnes and the Barauni Refinery remains closed since January 1980 because of the Assam agitation.

On the recommendation of an expert committee, the Government proposes to set up two refineries—one at Mangalore and another at Karnal—with a total installed capacity of nine million tonnes per annum. They are expected to commence production by 1985-86.

Additional facilities are being set up to handle the increased production of LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) after commissioning the second processing facilities of the Gujarat Refinery. These are expected to be mechanically completed by June 1982, according to the annual report of the petroleum department for 1980-81.

The report said the Government has approved the installation of an additional coking unit at Barauni Refinery at an estimated cost of Rs 23.80 crore to optimise the production of light and middle distillates and to meet the demands of raw petroleum coke. Construction on the project has begun and is scheduled to be completed by March 1983.

To check the environmental pollution from the Mathura Refinery the Government has set up a high-powered committee.

Air monitoring has been started at two places, and is likely to be started at two more places by March 1981.

CSO: 4220/7433

FOREIGN HELP MAY BE SOUGHT IN GODAVARI OIL HUNT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 27 (UNI): The government may go in for foreign consultancy for the exploration of oil in the Godavari basin, according to authoritative sources.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has drilled two wells without any success. But there have been strong indications of rich deposits of hydrocarbons.

The sources believe that the Godavari basin might prove to be another Bombay High.

The basin is very rocky and muddy and deep drilling has been found difficult. Because of this the government may seek foreign assistance, the sources said.

The sources said the World Bank was likely to give 200 million dollars for the project.

This was the outcome of the recent discussions the petroleum minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, had with the World Bank president, Mr. Robert McNamara.

India required about Rs. 8,000 crores for reaching the production target of 26 million tonnes by the end of the sixth five year plan.

The ONGC will also go ahead with drilling operations in Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh.

CSO: 4220/7428

PETROLEUM MINISTRY'S 1980-81 REPORT SUMMARIZED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 27.—The closure of the refineries at Gauhati Digboi, Barauni and Bongaigaon because of the Assam agitation had resulted in a loss of about 4.21 million tons of crude oil and 1.88 million tons of petroleum products. The total value, in terms of the average import price, is Rs 832 crores.

The annual report of the Department of Petroleum of the Ministry of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers says what while the import bill in 1980-81 is expected to be around Rs 5,600 crores, efforts are being made to get the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and oil India to maximise production and also to get foreign companies to tap for oil in the selected blocks. Some contracts for exploration by foreign companies is expected to be finalized during the year.

On the other hand, the total refining capacity, which is now 31.8 million tons in terms of crude, is expected to rise by about six million tons with the completion of the mechanical part of the Mathura refinery.

The report says that the expert committee set up to make suitable recommendations regarding location and product-mix of new grass-root refineries during the Sixth Plan period had recommended the setting up of two refineries with a total installed capacity of nine million tons a year.

Based on the recommendations of the expert committee, it is proposed to set up one refinery around Mangalore and another near Karnal. The two proposed refineries are expected to start production in 1985-86.

While imports in 1980-81 totalled 18.7 million tons of crude and 7.99 million tons of petroleum products, imports next year are expected to be 15.2 million tons of crude and 4.73 million tons of products.

According to the report, the increase in the import bill was due to larger purchase from abroad and enhancement of crude prices by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The report also refers to the price differential of 93 paise per litre between the selling price of kerosene and high speed diesel oil and says that oil companies, at the Government's instance, are exploring possibilities of colouring kerosene to eliminate the possibility of mixing kerosene with diesel oil.

CSO: 4220/7430

DELHI RAISES CRUDE OIL ROYALTY FOR STATES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] The Centre has increased the quantum of royalty payable to States on indigenous crude from Rs 42 to Rs 61 per tonne, Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals P. C. Sethi announced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, reports PTI.

The royalty of Rs 61, Mr Sethi said, was the maximum that could be paid on the basis of the present sale price of crude which for onshore production was Rs 305 per tonne.

Extra income in terms of royalty and sales tax for the year 1981-82 was estimated by the Minister at about Rs 6.32 crore for Gujarat and Rs 10.08 crore for Assam.

Mr Sethi said the Governments of Gujarat and Assam had submitted detailed memoranda requesting for further enhancement of the rate of royalty.

Royalty is payable to the states of Gujarat, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The rate of royalty on crude was increased from Rs 15 to Rs 42 per tonne with effect from 8 September 1976 and payment to these States at that rate has continued since then.

CSO: 4220

SHORTCOMINGS IN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 81 p 2

[Second in a series of articles by Bharat Dogra: "Academic Jungle"]

[Text] In recent years the simmering discontent in several scientific research institutes has reached a boiling point, leading to prolonged agitations. Indeed, they attract notice more because of these agitations than for any valuable research work done there. One such research institute is the Dehradun-based Indian Institute of Petroleum, which, with its regional stations in other parts of the country, is the leading and the oldest research institute of its kind in the country dealing with petroleum refining, petrochemicals, applications of petroleum products and related areas.

In the twenty years of its existence the IIP has attracted a large number of capable scientists which would be the envy of such an institute in any developing country, and also assembled a lot of expensive and sophisticated equipment and facilities. Yet there has been little progress in the area of self-reliance and the country remains critically dependent on the knowhow and products offered by multinationals and other foreign sources, mostly on exploitative terms. Over the years more and more capable scientists have been leaving this prestigious organisation, while many who remain are frustrated about their working conditions.

A cursory look at one of the annual reports of the institute reveals an impressive record of research work, but when one examines the reports of earlier years, it becomes clear that credit is being taken for the same work for several successive years. Talk to the scientists working in the various labs of this institute, and you learn that repetition is only one of the many problems of the research pursued here.

In fact many scientists believe that a fairly high share of the supposed R and D work done here, some say as much as 50 per cent of the total research work, cannot strictly be called R and D at all. It belongs to the category of technical services. As a scientist said, "it is fraud to regard technical services as R and D work and divert manpower and money from R and D to technical services, and this fraud is taking place here on a large scale." This is one of the major reasons why the country has continued to remain dependent in the areas of refining and petrochemicals despite so much money being poured into IIP. For example, almost all the catalysts used in our refineries today are still imported.

Another major problem with research work is that several projects of dubious merit are allotted funds and manpower out of all proportion to their utility because they are identified with the career interests of some powerful scientists. For example, there is the work on development of single cell proteins from petroleum hydrocarbons. This idea did gain some acceptability some time back but initial research soon revealed the optimism of scientists working on this idea to be unwarranted, among other things, because of the toxicity associated with the proteins obtained in this way, and subsequently this became ever more redundant because of the steep escalation in petroleum price. A dead horse is being kept alive for the interests of a senior and influential scientist, and what is more the project is being extended and its fund allocations increased from year to year. Several scientists are sore that while a couple of lakh of rupees are squandered on such a dubious project, their own projects are starved of funds.

In some cases where the scientists have done good work, lack of adequate follow-up action and contact with the end-users reduced the value of the work done here. This is true, for instance, of the Nutan high efficiency kerosene wick stove introduced some time back in the market on the basis of research work done in the Indian Oil Corporation's R and D centre and earlier in the IIP. This is how a scientist described the experience of this oil conservation device. There is no denying its superiority over the ordinary wick stoves available in the market. But that is true only so far as tests in the idealized laboratory conditions are concerned. The matter should not have been allowed to end with the marketing of stoves. Follow-up studies should have been conducted in households to find out how it compared with its more dowdy counterparts in terms of consumption of kerosene.

There are cases where the scientists of the IIP have developed know-how, but some bosses of the institute, with a view to oblige some multinational companies have seen to it that nothing useful came out of such work. In one instance, the Defence authorities had emphasised the need for making an additive to be added to the fuel used in Vijayanta tank to condition its engine before actual use and the IIP scientists successfully developed this process. However, when a US-based multinational showed interest in this venture, there were inexplicable delays in the manufacture of this additive. In another case, a technology for substituting the use of edible oils in the manufacture of soap was evolved but again this technology was entrusted to a multi-national which shelved it.

When this is the state of research in the institute, it is only to be expected that dedicated scientists who want to do relevant research and want that this research should be put to proper use to achieve self-reliance are a frustrated lot. This frustration becomes all the more acute when they find that any effort that they make to oppose dubious projects only results in their victimisation.

Even under normal conditions the working scientists have to put up with a number of questionable practices--such as the division head expecting the scientist to include his name as co-author in the research papers he submits

for publication or trying to control sophisticated and expensive instruments purchased for common use and then using this as a lever of influence. When the institute purchased a NMR spectrometre from a company in Japan, not only were irregularities suspected in the selection and purchase of this costly instrument the Head of the Refining Division demanded that he should be sent abroad for training to operate this instrument, denying this opportunity to the actual operator who had obtained considerable expertise in this field and despite the fact that the head was ill-qualified for training in this field. After his return from training, the head became known in the scientific community for not permitting other scientists to use this extremely expensive instrument for scientific use. Protest always brings victimisation.

The workers of IIP have worked under exploitative conditions for several years. A large number of them were not regularised in spite of several years of service and had to be content with a daily wage of around Rs 6 without any other service benefits, and in addition to suffer other indignities in the form of doing private work for officials. Living in dilapidated huts around the imposing mansion of the institute, they lived a truly miserable existence. In early 1979, the workers launched an agitation mainly for the regularisation of the work. During this struggle some conscientious scientists who were active in the IIP branch of the Association of Scientific Workers' of India tried to mediate between the workers and the IIP management. Following these efforts, three scientists, Dr S. N. Sharma, Mr N. Ray and Mr D. N. Anand were suspended, besides several activists of the workers' union. The suspension orders prohibited the entry of these persons into the IIP campus. Later in April, an agreement with the workers was signed incorporating the regularisation of employees and reinstatement of the suspended employees. The agitation lasted for over a month, bringing the struggling scientists and workers closer.

Later, however, the management went back on its word and another agitation was started by the workers which went on for nearly four months. The president of the Workers Union, Mr R. K. Sharma, who had served the institute for over two decades, was arbitrarily dismissed. Two other office-bearers of the union were suspended.

In February the hard pressed workers decided to withdraw their agitation after being given verbal assurances by the then Petroleum Minister, Mr P. C. Sethi. After this the management systematically persecuted those scientists who were sympathetic to the agitation in matters relating to promotions, fellowships and training, apart from exposing them to constant harassment in the day-to-day life in the institute.

CSO: 4220

'PTI' REPORTS CRUDE OUTPUT TO BE DOUBLED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] The Government proposes to nearly double crude oil production from 9.4 million tonnes in 1980-81 to 16.9 million tonnes in 1981-82, reports PTI.

According to official sources, the on-shore production will be stepped up from 4.9 million tonnes to 8.5 million tonnes and off-shore production from 4.5 million tonnes to 8.4 million tonnes during the period.

On-shore exploration will be intensified in Assam-Arakan, Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins and the pace of exploration in Cambay basin will be maintained. Exploration in West Bengal, Ganga valley, Himalayan foothills, Rajasthan, Orissa-coast and other areas is proposed to be suitably stepped up.

The total exploratory drilling envisaged by the ONGC and Oil India in the on-land basins is of the order of 300 wells comprising 882,700 metres.

Oil India is expected to continue their off-shore exploratory programme in the Mahanadi delta area. ONGC will continue exploration in Bombay off-shore basin. It plan to increase the number of off-shore rigs deployed so as to drill about 95 exploratory wells in different off-shore areas during the sixth plan period.

Besides the full development of Bombay High field, development of other structures, namely, R-12, South Basin and North basin fields, B-37, B-38 structures, will also be carried out during the Plan period.

CSO: 4220

USSR TO HELP IN ACTIVATING SICK OIL WELLS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Mar 81 p 19

[Text] New Delhi, March 15 (UNI): India and the Soviet Union are expected to enter into a contract soon for reactivating sick oil wells in India, according to official sources.

Under the contract about 30 Soviet experts will stay in India for about two years to put sick oil wells back into production.

Preliminary discussions were held with the Soviet delegation which visited India early this year. Final discussions are to be held soon in the Soviet Union to formulate a draft contract.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has identified 235 sick wells to be brought back to production. These include 150 wells in the western region (Gujarat) and 35 wells in the eastern region (Assam). A hundred and thirty-nine wells had become sick prior to 1979, 46 wells in 1979 and 50 in 1980.

The expenditure for repairing the wells in the western region is estimated at Rs 3 crores which is likely to be met by taking credit from the Soviet Union.

Increased Output

Reactivising of the sick wells is part of the ONGC's plans to step up the country's oil production which is expected to touch 16.9 million tonnes by 1981-82. Of the total targeted production, 8.5 million tonnes are expected to be from onshore and 8.4 million tonnes from offshore.

Besides full development of the Bombay High field, development of other structures, namely R-12, south Bassein and north Bassein fields, B-37 and B-38 structures, would also be carried out during the plan period.

ONGC plans to increase the number of offshore rigs deployed so as to drill about exploratory wells in different offshore areas during the next five years.

The total exploratory drilling envisaged by the ONGC and Oil India Ltd., in the on-land basins is of the order of 300 wells comprising 882, 700 metres.

Of the total outlay of Rs 2853.58 crores in the sixth plan for the petroleum sector, the provision of Rs 37.35 crores has been made for research. This includes Rs 20 crores for R and D of the ONGC and Rs 17.53 crores for refining and marketing.

During 1981 the petroleum ministry has also decided to increase the gas production to 3,330 million cubic metres from 2,080 million cubic metres last year.

CSO: 4220

COALFIELDS LIMITED HEAD TALKS TO NEWSMEN

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Calcutta, March 15. The performance of the Central Coalfields Limited a subsidiary of the Coal India Limited, provides a rebuff to the canard against the Public Sector in general. Chairman-cum-managing Director of the CCL Dr B L Wadhera, gave some of the details of the performance at a press conference here last evening.

The CCL plans to increase its production by over a million tonnes. The target was 2.6 million tonnes, and the actuals would be 27 million tonnes. In February, the average daily rate of production was 1.22 lakh tonnes.

The Chairman said that the pithead stocks with the CCL would be six million tonnes by the year end. He said at the moment, the CCL was getting 1800 wagons every day for loading and it would be even if it could get 2300 wagons every day.

Dr Wadhera also said that the cost of production of coal per tonne was Rs 84.51 and the average selling price was Rs 101.41 with the result that the CCL could make a profit of Rs 16.90 per tonne.

After incurring losses from 1977 to 1979, the CCL had made a profit of Rs 36.06 crore last year, according to the papers supplied by the CCL.

Mr Wadhera said that the CCL mines were mainly in Bihar with some scattered in Orissa and M.P.

These profits were achieved despite the 45 per cent increase in input prices.

He however, said that the new price increase of coal announced by the Union Government would 'give us more.'

Mr Wadhera said the CCL's breakeven point was 23 million tonnes of production which was achieved in 1978-79 and this tilted the balance.

The CCL has 65 coal producing projects and four working coal washeries, two of these are under construction, employing about 1,10,000 workers. Its four coal washeries producing washed medium coking coal for supply to steel plants would also record a growth rate of 13 per cent over the last year. The current year's production of washed coal is likely to be 3.73 million tonnes as compared to 3.31 million tonnes last year.

CSO: 4220

CHEMICAL, FERTILIZER DEPARTMENT REPORT SUMMARIZED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 29 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] SEVERAL new fertiliser projects were currently being finalised to meet the growing demand of fertilisers in the country according to the annual report of the Department of Chemicals and Fertilisers for 1980-81, reports PTI.

The report said natural gas available from the Bombay High and Bassein areas was sufficient to set up at least six more fertiliser plants. These would be in addition to the already approved four plants two each in Maharashtra and Gujarat, according to an official release.

The report said that the proposals for the additional gas-based fertiliser plants would be finalised on the receipt of the report of the site selection committee.

According to the report, a site selection committee had been appointed to recommend locations of the additional six gas-based fertiliser plants proposed to be set up in the northern region.

The report pointed out that the demand for fertilisers at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan was estimated to be around 60 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 23 lakh tonnes of phosphates. It was likely to further increase to 85 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 35 lakh tonnes of phosphates by the end of the seventh Five Year Plan (1989-90).

The total installed capacity after completion of all the fertiliser plants now under implementation would be 68.35 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 15.30 lakh tonnes of phosphates. Since production would fall short of the demand, advance action was being taken by the Government to finalise new projects.

For additional phosphatic fertiliser plants during the Sixth Five Year Plan, preliminary studies had already been undertaken. The report said that the Paradeep project to produce phosphatic fertiliser would be taken up for implementation in 1981-82.

CSO: 4220/7438

FINANCING FOR ORISSA ALUMINUM PROJECT AGREED

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, March 26.

The conclusion of negotiations for financing the integrated aluminium project coming up in Orissa has caused considerable satisfaction in Government circles here.

The National Aluminium Company set up by the Union Government will build the project in technical collaboration with Aluminium Pechiney of France. The French firm had shown interest in equity investment in the project, but the Union Government felt that it was not needed.

The French firm will, in addition to passing on the basic knowhow, do and supervise the detailed engineering work. It will also assist in the construction work and in the purchase of equipment.

The project envisages the mining of 2.4 million tonnes of bauxite, production of 800,000 tonnes of alumina and the construction of an aluminium smelter with an annual capacity of 218,000 tonnes. This will leave 350,000 tonnes of alumina for export.

Bauxite mining and the alumina plant operation are expected to commence in 1985 and the production of aluminium is due to being in 1986.

Project cost: At current prices the project is estimated to cost Rs. 1,242 crores. The import component is about Rs. 170 crores but, if a part of its captive power plant is imported, then the foreign exchange component will go up to about Rs. 370 crores.

The French Government has offered credit amounting to $400 million at concessional terms. The commercial credit, which will be made available by a syndicate of banks, will amount to $680 million.

This is said to be the biggest ever commercial credit made available by foreign banks to a project in Asia.

To begin with Indian negotiators had proposed a credit of $740 million but since the interest rates were very high, they reduced it to $680 million on favourable terms.

Official sources say that India preferred a smaller credit at favourable terms because the present deal might be a pace setter for the future. Hence it was not desirable to accept a high interest rate liability.

Repayment starts after four and a quarter years, and the schedule of repayment is small in the first two years and goes up from the third year onwards. The repayment will be spread over a 10-year period.

Interest rate: The interest rate during the first four years will be half a per cent higher than the London Inter-Bank offer rate (LIBOR) prevailing from time to time. From the fifth year the interest rate comes down to five-eights above the prevailing LIBOR.

The National Aluminium Company has already drawn $20 million of the commercial credit and some money from the funds placed at its disposal by the French Government.

About two-thirds of the entire project cost will come from commercial credit from abroad and the loan granted by the French Government. The rest will be met from budget provisions by the Government of India.

Four lead banks--Banque Nationale de Paris, Societe Generale, Bank America International Group and the State Bank of India--are involved in the commercial credit deal.

There are also 17 manager banks and nine co-managers and 18 individual participants in the syndicate including offshore branches of three Indian banks--Bank of Baroda, Indian Overseas Bank and Bank of India. The Indian banks will contribute $3 million.

Banque Nationale de Paris acted as the agent of the four lead banks and contacted 400 banks which have joined together in providing the credit. These include Japanese, British, American and West Asian banks.

The spread of the loan has confirmed India's creditworthiness in the international banking world.

CSO: 4220/7427

REASONS FOR PROBLEMS IN IRON MINES EXAMINED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 Mar 81 p 8

[Article by Bharat Dogra]

[Text] IN June, 1977, the police opened fire on iron ore miners of Dalli-Rajhara in Madhya Pradesh's Durg district, killing 11 (the unofficial toll was higher) and injuring many more. A similar firing ten months later at Bailadilla in Bastar also took toll of 11 lives, though again, the unofficial estimate was much higher, and a large number of miners were also injured. Elsewhere too there has been frequent unrest over the distress caused by the exploitation by contractors and by large-scale retrenchments in iron mines. All this recently culminated in a confrontation in the Dalli-Rajhara mines where workers are forbidden to indulge in even legitimate union activities, and arrests and violent dispersal of demonstrators are common.

This tension has to be understood against the background of several layers of exploitation. The steel industry in developed countries is determined, for instance, to deprive ore exporting countries of a fair price, and to pass on the entire burden of falling demand to exporters. This is compounded in India by collusion between contractors and officials to deny contract labourers of manual mines the benefits due to regular employees of any public sector undertaking.

OPEN CAST

India's 284 iron mines produce about 39 million tons of ore every year. Concentrated in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, almost all the mines are open cast. The larger units produce about 4,000 tons of ore per day. Most of the mines are under the Union Ministry of Steel and Mines, run by Hindustan Steel or the National Mineral Development Corporation and nearly 40 per cent of production—the exact amount depends on the fluctuating international situation—is exported. About half is sold abroad through the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation. Iron ore export earnings—standing at Rs 233 crores in 1978-79—comprise nearly five per cent of the total but, unfortunately, India has never been able to get fair terms and we have been forced to sell abroad at prices that are often less than the cost of extracting the ore.

Long-term agreements were drawn up with Japan in the early sixties to supply iron from the Kiriburu and Bailadilla mines. The price was largely decided by cost studies undertaken by Japanese consultants, but these were subsequently shown to be gross underestimates of actual expenses. India has, therefore, been shipping iron ore to Japan at a net loss, and to make matters worse, we have had to invest heavily in rail transport and harbour facilities to support these uneconomic exports. Moreover, by insisting on FOB prices Japan has cornered the lucrative job of shipping massive cargoes of ore. Substantial Japanese loans to expand iron mining and export facilities seem somewhat less desirable when balanced against the cost of what amounts to subsidised exports year after year.

The situation changed somewhat after nine iron-exporting countries (including India) united to demand better terms, especially from Japan which is entirely dependant on foreign sources. Japan not only conceded a price rise in 1974 but also agreed that long-term contracts could be renegotiated in the context of new and unforeseen developments. On the whole, however the cartel of Japanese steel mill's still maintains its dominant position, and the need to link prices to production costs has not been fully satisfied.

While the terms of sales to Japan, which is by far the biggest buyer of Indian ore, are unsatisfactory, experience with other countries too has not been happy. Kudremukh's expectation of exporting 7.5 million tons of ore may have been jeopardized by circumstances that could not have been predicted, but before committing so much money to developing export-based mines, India should have carefully evaluated implications of the natural gas based sponge iron technology. Recent evidence suggests that plans for these steel plants, as also the supply of Kudremukh ore for them, were not very viable propositions. They were apparently pushed through by some multinational companies acting in concert with the Shah of Iran's regime. The present panicky search for other buyers, forced by the Shah's downfall, the chaos in Iran and the Gulf war, suggests that we might again have to sell in a buyer's market. In fact, Romania proposed linking its iron imports to the export of power plants to India.

VOLUME

Apart from not always receiving an economic price, we have also had to face sudden reductions in the amount of ore

shipped. The long-term agreement with Japan stipulated the volume to be lifted over the entire period, but did not lay down how much was to be taken each year. Hence, Japan can restrict demand in any one year, the impact of reduced earnings being borne by thousands of Indian miners who, being engaged on a contract basis, can suddenly be thrown out of their jobs. During 1977-78 and 1978-79 when Japan's offtake was reduced, the lower demand provoked retrenchment at Bailadilla. Festering grievances, in turn, created an explosive situation eventually culminating in the death of several workers and burning of the huts of many more.

Indian mining authorities have not helped to remove the sense of insecurity that is widespread among miners. The prospect of slackening demand, with stocks of ore piling up at the pithead and in ports, should have prompted measures to reduce the output of the heavily mechanized bigger mines, so as to avoid unemployment in manually operated mines. But official policy is usually exactly the opposite, and it is workers in the manual mines who generally have to bear the brunt of falling exports. The Government's dissolution of seven workers' cooperatives in Chhattisgarh in early March added to fears and uncertainty.

This is only one of the imbalances that lie at the root of unrest in iron mines. Contrasts within the industry also cause frustration and resentment. Some mines are fully mechanized with sophisticated machinery and wholly departmentalized labour which gets good emoluments and amenities. But others employ underpaid and overworked miners recruited by contractors from the surrounding tribal areas. The oppressive conduct of these contractors accounts for much of the dissatisfaction among Adivasis. It is also said that mines are deliberately kept in primitive conditions by officials who are more interested in periodically going abroad, allegedly to study superior technology, than in actually importing modern machinery. Their cynicism is promoted by contractors who have everything to gain from exploiting cheap labour. Cases have also been reported to importing and installing at great cost machinery that is obviously unsuitable to Indian conditions.

BIZARRE

The identity of interests between corrupt officials and contractors leads to bizarre misrepresentations. A large part of the output of a departmentalized mine can be shown as having been produced in a contractor's manual mine. The contractor thereby earns a handsome bonus which is then shared with bureaucrats. Another reason for continuing the contract system is that the well-paid departmentalized staff of mechanized mines can be protected, managements accepting no responsibility for casual labourers who enjoy no security. The extremely low cost of manual mining also reduces overall expenditure thereby keeping operations within limits acceptable to auditors in spite of suspected shady deals. Political patronage for locally influential contractors allows the system to continue despite several official policy statements promising to abolish contract labour. Even the 1970 Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act is not properly enforced.

How exploitative the system can be will be evident from the fact that until 1977, when Dalli-Rajhara workers united under a powerful union, they were paid only Rs 5 per day for a 12 to 16 hour shift of exhausting labour. A miner's family would cook just one meal of only rice after work late each day and the left-overs sufficed for the next day's breakfast. Dal and vegetables were reserved for special occasions, meat and fish being unknown.

If the contractor is the obvious culprit, the chain of guilt extends through corrupt officials to captains of steel industries abroad who impose unfair conditions and thereby influence remuneration and working conditions in Indian mining. This can only be checked if India in cooperation with other leading ore exporters insists on better terms and higher prices paid with greater regularity. At the same time, the pattern of iron mining in this country must be reformed and revitalized without injury to the interests of contract labourers who should not be dismissed in the name of mechanization. Mr Pranab Mukerjee, the Union Minister for Steel and Mines, informed the Rajya Sabha on March 10 that all public sector steel plants had been asked to abolish contract labour. But since no time limit was announced the assurance holds little comfort. Nor was it explicitly stated that abolition of the system would mean that contract workers would be absorbed in the permanent staff on reasonable wages. Resentment will persist in the mines, leading to further friction, until both conditions are met, and miners are rescued from the clutches of contractors.

CSO: 4220/7431

STUDY ON PROBLEMS OF CEMENT INDUSTRY REPORTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] An amount of Rs 2000 crore will be required for enhancing the cement production capacity over the next five years to meet the country's growing demands, reports UNI.

A study on cement industry also suggests that another Rs 1000 crore will be required to scrap the obsolescent plants in the cement industry and replace them by new ones to increase production.

The study, says an economic price of cement with an adequate built-in rate of return alone can ensure generation of resources to take care of long-overdue modernisation of the plants and unable them to expand. However, the present price control system does not permit modernisation or growth.

The study, an inter-sectoral appraisal of cement industry, brings out the poor capacity utilisation, operational inefficiency and negative profitability in the public sector compared to the private sector over a period of five years from 1973-74 to 1977-78.

The capacity utilisation in the private sector increased from 75 per cent in 1973-74 to over 90 per cent in 1977-78. However, the utilisation rate was markedly lower in the public sector where one would rather expect about intensity to be less in the new and technologically more advanced factories.

Operational inefficiency is also reflected in much greater power consumption per tonne of production in the public sector as compared to the private sector.

The public sector deploys proportionately much larger funds as working capital, while the private sector units have managed with much less and also effected significant economics.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

INDO-FRENCH INSTITUTE--Chandigarh, March 15 (UNI)--The Union Government has decided to set up a national institute of technology and management for ancillaries and medium industry at the Maruti ancillary complex in collaboration with the French Government. Announcing this at a news conference here, Union Minister of State for Industry Charanjit Chanana said a French team would visit India in May to identify details of necessary requirements. He said a similar institute would be set up at Goindwal industrial township, in Amritsar district, for small and medium industry for which the Punjab Government had promised 40 hectares of land. [Excerpt] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Mar 81 p 5]

ANJIAH ELECTED--Hyderabad, March 16 (PTI)--The chief minister, Mr T. Anjiah, was today elected unopposed to the state assembly from the Ramayampet constituency in Medak district following the withdrawal of candidature by 12 other candidates, including a nominee of the Bharatiya Janata Party and independents. Today was the last date for the withdrawal of candidature. The seat was vacated by Mr Muthyam Reddy to enable Mr Anjiah to get elected. In the remaining three assembly constituencies, where by-elections are to be held, 14 candidates remain in the field--four each in Chirala and Ibrahimpatnam and six in Palair. In Chirala, the Congress(I) faces the Janata nominee and two independents. In Ibrahimpatnam the challenge to the ruling party is from the CPI and independents while in Palair it is the CPM that is challenging it in addition to independents. Polling will take place on April 5, 1981. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Mar 81 p 1]

ASSAM LEGISLATOR'S DENIAL--Gauhati, March 16 (PTI)--Mr Gajen Tanti, a Congress (U) MLA, today described as "absolutely baseless" reports that he was joining the Congress(I). Mr Tanti in a press statement here said: "I am surprised to learn that the Congress(I) circle has been carrying on propaganda against me as having joined the Congress(I). This is absolutely baseless. I am firmly in the Congress(U)." Mrs Anwara Taimur, chief minister, in a press statement earlier in the day had said that Mr Tanti and Mr Anil Das, a Lok Dal MLA, had resigned from their parties and joined the Congress(I). Mrs Taimur also said that Mr Tanti and Mr Das were admitted to the Assam Congress(I) legislature party with immediate effect. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Mar 81 p 4]

WEST GERMAN VISITORS--New Delhi, March 16--The German Youth Hostel Association of West Germany will be sending in groups about 30,000 youths to India in 1981-82. Dr Franz Poggeler, president of the association, told this to Mr A.P. Sharma, Union minister for tourism and civil aviation, when he called on him today. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Mar 81 p 11]

DEFENSE STUDIES SCHOOL--Madurai, March 16--A university exclusively for Defence Studies is to be set up soon, according to Dr B. Ramachandra Rao, Vice-chairman of the UGC. Delivering the rectorial address at the Madura College here on Saturday, Dr Rao said the UGC had talks with the Chief of Staff and Vice-Chief of Staff of the three services in this connection, and a final decision would be taken shortly. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Mar 81 p 7]

GANDHI TO GENEVA--New Delhi, March 17--The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, will pay a brief visit to Geneva in the first week of May. Mrs Gandhi has been invited to deliver the keynote address to the World Health Organisation's special session on food and nutrition. It is likely that after completing her engagements in Geneva, Mrs Gandhi on her return home will visit one of the west European countries. Since Mrs Gandhi is due to have talks with the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in April and the French presidential election will just have been completed in early May, a visit by her to London and Paris is highly unlikely. Indications are that Mrs Gandhi will pay a brief visit to Bonn. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Mar 81 p 1]

BOMBAY NAME CHANGE--Bombay, March 17--The rechristening of Bombay as "Mumbai" will be done after June 30 this year the minister of state for urban development, Mr Dandrakant Tripathi, told the legislative council today. He was replying to a half-hour debate raised by Mr Madhu Deolekar (BJP). Mr Tripathi said the switchover would have been made earlier but for some technical hitches. The Centre had told the government that no change should be made before June 30, because of the census operations. The state government had already accepted the Bombay municipal corporation's suggestion that Bombay be used in brackets along with the new name for two years to familiarise the people with the change. Earlier Mr Deolekar said it was a matter of "cultural pride" for the people of Maharashtra to rename the metropolis as "Mumbai." [Excerpts] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Mar 81 p 7]

LOK DAL, CPI STANDS--New Delhi, March 17--The Lok Dal and the CPI today separately pledged their support to the principle of reservation and criticised the Gujarat government's handling of the issue. The parliamentary group of the Lok Dal, which met under the chairmanship of its deputy leader, Mr George Fernandes, reiterated its commitment in the party election manifesto for the continuance of reservation for the scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes. It had proposed similar reservation in issue of permits and licences for which no special skill was required. For the CPI, its general secretary, Mr Rajeswara Rao, said, "We want to reiterate that the demand for the abolition of reservation in promotions and post-graduate medical courses is only the thin end of the wedge which in fact is aimed against reservations for Harijans, Adivasis and backward classes. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Mar 81 p 9]

OIL FROM PAKISTAN--Minister of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilisers P C Sethi informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that an agreement had been signed with Pakistan for import of fuel oil, reports PTI. It would not be in the public interest to disclose the details, the Minister told Mr Hiralal Parmar in a written reply. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 81 p 7]

SHIPS TO USSR--The Soviet Union has placed orders for the supply of Indian freight containers for a value of Rs 1.26 crore during 1981. Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee informed the Rajya Sabha that the Governments of India and the USSR had concluded the annual trade protocol for export of goods during 1981. The list of items for export from India included freight containers. He was replying to a question from Mr K. L. Prasad. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 81 p 8]

WEST BENGAL BYELECTIONS--Calcutta, March 17--The by-elections to the West Bengal Assembly and Lok Sabha seat from the State will be held on 17 May says a communication from the Chief Election Commissioner's office received in the CM's office. By-elections would be held for eight Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat. The Lok Sabha constituency is Serampore. The eight assembly constituencies are: Midnapur, Jadavpur, Maniktola, Dum Dum, Khorba, Sujapur, Darjeeling and one in West Dinajpur. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Mar 81 p 4]

INDUSTRIAL SPYING CASE--New Delhi, March 18 (PTI)--The CBI has arrested the son of a former defence secretary in connection with the leakage of classified documents about the setting up of two ammonia plants. Nanak Chand Sheth, a senior executive of a private industrial consultancy bureau, was arrested last evening. So far five people, including three government officials, have been arrested in the case, which has international ramifications. Firms from the United States, Japan and Britain are interested in the contracts for the plants at the Thal-Vaishet and Hajira in Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively. The metropolitan magistrate, Mr O. P. Gonge, remanded Mr Sheth to CBI custody till March 23. In his order rejecting Mr Sheth's bail application, the court accepted the CBI plea that some vital documents were yet to be recovered. "Presence in police custody was essential," the court observed. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 81 p 7]

BIHAR CONFIDENCE VOTE--Patna, March 17--A no-confidence motion against the Dr Jagannath Misra ministry was defeated by 181 to 114 votes in the Bihar assembly yesterday after an acrimonious debate during which members from both the opposition and treasury benches levelled charges and counter-charges against each other. The fate of the motion tabled by the opposition leader, Mr Karpoori Thakur, was never in doubt in view of the fragmented opposition in the assembly. The voting figures revealed that at least 22 opposition MLAs were absent or did not vote. Against this, the number of Congress(I) absentees was only three. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Mar 81 p 7]

BENGAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS--Elections to 90 municipalities of West Bengal, excluding Howrah, Chakdah, Beldanga Habra, Jadavpore, Islampur and Jhargram, will be held on May 31. An official spokesman said in Calcutta on Wednesday that the Government notification fixing the date of elections would be issued on March 30. The last date for submission of nomination papers was April 15. The last date for withdrawal of candidature was April 25. As regards the by-elections to the State Assembly and Parliament, Mr N. Krishnamurthy, Chief Electoral Officer, said that the date of the elections would be announced officially after receiving formal intimation from the Election Commission.

Replying to a question, he said that the State Government had not received any specific complaints in regard to the revision of electoral rolls for the elections. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Mar 81 p 1]

WHEAT PROCUREMENT PRICE--New Delhi, March 18--The procurement price of wheat this year will be Rs 130 a quintal against Rs 117 last year. Announcing this in the Lok Sabha today, the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Rao Birendra Singh, said this was Rs 3 more than that recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission. The Minister said the issue price of wheat for the public distribution system would be Rs 145 a quintal, against Rs 130 at present. The issue price for roller flour mills will be Rs 155. These prices will come into force from April 1. The present policy of free movement of foodgrain including wheat, will continue but the Government might, if necessary, impose a levy on traders. The support price for barley has been increased from Rs 85 to Rs 105. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Mar 81 p 9]

PREPAK LEADER KILLED--Imphal, March 27 (UNI): Mr. N. Imochonba Singh, one of the top leaders of the outlawed People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), was shot dead by some unknown persons near here last night, the police reported today. Mr. Singh was watching a dance performance when he was shot on his chest with a 0.33 rifle from a point blank range. He died instantly. Mr. Singh had surrendered to the authorities in September. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 81 p 1]

ALUMINUM PRICES UP--New Delhi, March 27 (PTI): The government tonight announced a hike in sale and retention prices of aluminium with immediate effect and extended the price control to the entire production of wire rods manufactured by primary producers. The revised sale prices of aluminium of different specifications--inclusive of excise duty--(with old prices in brackets) are: CG ingots-Rs. 18,492 a tonne (Rs. 15,723) EC ingots-Rs. 18,636 a tonne (Rs. 15,867) wire rods-Rs. 19,475 a tonne (Rs. 16,349). An official announcement says that the c.i.f. price of the imported metal will now be higher than the revised sale price of indigenously-produced aluminium inclusive of excise duty levied at 44 per cent ad valorem. Meanwhile, the minister of state for finance, Mr. S. S. Sisodia, announced the government decision in the Lok Sabha to enhance import duty on aluminium ingots and wire rods from 12.5 to 51.2 per cent ad valorem and the Central excise duty on aluminium wire rods manufactured from ingots or billets from Rs. 134 a tonne to Rs. 233. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 81 p 1]

PUNJABI IN KASHMIR--Jammu, March 27: For the first time in the history of the Jammu and Kashmir legislature, a member was permitted to speak in Punjabi in the assembly yesterday. The member, Mr. Parduman Singh (Cong.-I), had moved a calling-attention motion relating to inadequate arrangements made by the government for teaching Punjabi in the educational institutions of the state and insufficient opportunities provided by the Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for its development. When Mr. Parduman Singh got up to raise supplementaries, the leader of the house, Sheikh Abdullah, asked him to speak in Punjabi. The Sheikh, however, felt that the member had not spoken pure Punjabi but a dialect of the language which was in vogue in the Tral region of the valley, where a large number of Sikhs had settled down. After some time, Mr. Parduman Singh reverted to Urdu, the official language of the state. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 81 p 6]

PRC INVITATION--New Delhi, March 27: China has sent an invitation to the India-China Friendship Society to send two teams for a goodwill tour of that country.

The invitation was received by Mr. Bhakti Bhusan Mondal, president of the society. China has offered to bear the cost of the two teams, each consisting of ten members. It has offered to send a five-member Chinese team to tour India. The first Indian team will go to China in May, to be followed by the second team towards the end of the year. In between, the Chinese team will come to India. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Mar 81 p 9]

SOVIET-AIDED KERALA PLANT--Trivandrum, March 27 (UNI)--The Soviet Union will provide technical know-how for setting up a special refractories plant in Quilon district. A technical collaboration agreement to this effect was signed by the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) and a Soviet agency in New Delhi last week, says an official release. This is the first time that the Soviet Union is providing technical assistance for an industrial project in Kerala. The project, costing Rs 15 crore envisages the production of 12,000 tonnes of special refractories to be used in the steel plants and other metallurgical industries. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in Enlgish 28 Mar 81 p 8]

MANIPUR EXTREMIST HELD--Imphal, March 28.--The top extremist leader, Moirangthem Ojit Singh, who carried a reward of Rs 10,000 on his head was arrested by the Manipur police in Jorhat last Monday, police said here today, reports UNI. [Text] [Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 81 p 1]

DMK LEADERS CONVICTED--Madras, March 29.--Mr K. Manoharan, former AIADMK Minister and now DMK deputy general secretary, and three other DMK leaders were yesterday convicted of the offence of negligent conduct with respect to fire and combustible matter and sentenced to undergo one month's rigorous imprisonment, reports PTI. The additional chief metropolitan magistrate, Mr S. Bairavan who awarded the sentence, however, ordered them to be released immediately after taking into consideration the period of their police and judicial custody since their arrest on February 22. Mr Manoharan and the three others were arrested after they burnt a copy of the Government notification appointing the Kailasam Commission of inquiry into the spirit-scandal. They had disapproved of the appointment and demanded a Central probe. They were later charged under Section 285 IPC (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter) and Section 74 of the City Police Act (burning any material without prior police permission). [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 30 Mar 81 p 13]

GOA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR--Mr Jagmohan was sworn in here as the new Goa Lt Governor this evening at Cabo Raj Niwas. The acting Judicial Commissioner Mr Justice K M Mishra, administered the oath of office to Mr Jagmohan. Mr Jagmohan who was formerly Lt Governor of Delhi was received on arrival at the Dab-lim airport by Goa Chief Secretary Dr J C Almeida, the wife of the Chief Minister Mrs Vijaydevi Rane, senior officials and others. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Mar 81 p 1]

INDO-SOVIET PLANNING GROUP--India and the Soviet Union have decided to provide training facilities for their planning officials in each other's country. The fifth meeting of the Indo-Soviet planning group in New Delhi decided that two or three officials from India would be sent for an advanced course in the Gosplan--state planning committee of the Soviet Union--for two weeks. Similarly, some Soviet planning experts will also be welcomed to spend some time in India's Planning Commission. The meeting also decided that modelling on a national level, application of economic and mathematical methods in regional and multi-level planning, including the planning of rural and urban development, would be discussed between the two planning bodies in future. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Mar 81 p 8]

NATIONAL CONFERENCE DEFECTORS--Jammu, March 30 (UNI)--Former ruling National Conference zonal president Noor-ud-Din Kataria and three others today resigned from the party and joined the Congress-I. He charged Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah with having made derogatory references recently about Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and misusing the funds allotted for the welfare of the backward community of Gujjars and bakarwads. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Mar 81 p 7]

CSO: 4220/7445

EDITOR OF BANNED NEWSPAPER PUBLISHES NEW JOURNALS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 29 Mar 81 p 11

[Text] Kathmandu, March 28.--Mr Devendra Gautam, a Nepali journalist whose NEPAL POST was banned by the Government seven months ago for allegedly having written against the country's monarch, has since brought out a number of publications. All of them prominently proclaimed that they were published with the cooperation of the NEPAL POST.

According to Gai Jatra festival traditions, Nepal's for one week can criticize, parody and make fun of any subject under the sun. [as published] But last year the authorities apparently disliked what was written in the NEPAL POST and the local zonal commissioner fined the newspaper, thus automatically cancelling its registration. The paper ceased publication and the editor, Mr Gautam, went to jail as he refused to pay the fine.

But as soon as he was out of the prison, he brought out a weekly, CURRENT its masthead proclaiming "with the cooperation of the NEPAL POST".

The local administration on legal grounds asked the paper to cease publication. Mr Gautam since then brought out six publications each bearing a new name.

All these said in their mastheads that they were published with the "cooperation of the NEPAL POST", leaving no one in doubt that it was indeed the parent paper.

The difficulty in bringing out new papers stems from the fact that registration has to be acquired before their publication. But registration has not been granted for "some time now" which indicates that these papers were registered in various persons' name long ago.

Talking to this reporter here on Thursday, Mr Gautam said his fight was not against the Government as such but for the cause of freedom of the Press. "No Government here has so far been able to accept criticism gracefully and then the best they can do is to ban publications. I am trying to ensure that the Government respects and encourages Press freedom", he said.

CSO: 4220/7437

BRIEFS

INDIAN JOINT VENTURES--Kathmandu, March 16 (UNI)--India and at least three other countries will help set up private joint ventures in Nepal during the next five years, Nepalese officials said yesterday. The Nepal Industrial Development Corporation has programmed a nine-fold increase in financial assistance to private sector--from Rs 50 million in the 5th plan to Rs 480 million in the 6th plan, the official said. They said India, the Soviet Union, China and West Germany were among the countries eager to help Nepal through joint-ups. Nepal on its part would try to liberalise the rules about repatriation of profits. The Soviet Union, which had earlier offered to set up a turpentine industry in Nepal, is now to assist the private sector here to do so. China has shown interest in helping Nepalese private sector develop leather processing industry. Industrial circles point out that this spurt in private sector investment comes after its less-than-spectacular performance in the fifth plan. Of nearly 130 industries licenced to be launched, only three public sector units and less than a dozen private ones have come up so far. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Mar 81 p 3]

CSO: 4220

U.S. CONSUL GENERAL'S TRIP TO BAHAWALPUR

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 1 Dec 80 pp 34-35

[Article by Ehsan Ahmad Sahar: "The American Consul General and His Trip to Bahawalpur"]

[Text] The American Consul General in Pakistan made a face-finding trip to various places in Bahawalpur. His scheduled program included visits to Sadiq Garh Palace, the residence of the ruler of Bahawalpur, the famous historic Fort Der, the tombs of the holy saints in Awich and the Head Punjnad. But some people with conscientious national concerns felt that the consul had specific and political purposes for the attainment of which, by using a visit to the historic places, he ignored accepted international diplomatic protocol. According to the correspondent, the American Consul General met Makhdum Nur Muhammad Hashmi, an ex-member of the National Assembly and a leader of the disbanded Jamiat-e-Ulamai-e-Pakistan in Mianwali: Mr Makhdum Ghulam Asghar Bukhari and ex-member of the provincial assembly Makhdum Shamsud-din Gilani in Awich Sharif; and afterwards, the president of the disbanded National Democratic Party, Mr Sardar Sher Baz Mazari.

In a meeting with the correspondent of CHATAN, Mr Saffar Ali Kherah, who is the private secretary to Mr Makhdum Shamsud-din Gilani of Awich Sharif, said that the American consul general was intent on talking about political matters but Mr Gilani refused to talk; this means that the American Consul General had a definite purpose for this visit. The present Indian and Russian lobbying activities in Pakistan have increased since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and the deteriorating world situation. After the visit of the consul general, local social circles believe that the country is facing present dangers. At the present time there is a real and vital need to strengthen national solidarity and defense. Enemy agents in Pakistan have become very active. Their underground activities cannot be ignored. The situation demands that there be complete harmony between the government and the people. Besides, foreign ambassadors' activities should be very carefully watched. All those diplomats associated with the big powers should be declared undesirables and expelled from the country so that no enemy can have the advantage of seeing us in a bad light. There is no denying the fact that as long as the enemy is unable to receive support from within, it can do nothing.

9778
CSO: 4203/23

NEED TO DIVERSIFY EXPORTS SEEN

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 81 pp 1, 10

[Text]

APRIL 5: The trade imbalance during this year is expected to be around $3 billion despite a substantial increase in exports to over $2.6 billion.

Imports are estimated between 5.3 billion to $5.6 billion.

This indication was given by the Commerce Secretary, Mr. Izharul Haq to the visiting nine-member U.S. - Pakistan Economic Council.

The Commerce Secretary pointed out that the vast deficit was due to tremendous increase in value of imports, escalation in energy prices and rising cost of edible oil and fertiliser.

He pointed out that the situation called for substained efforts for maximising exports.

The Government, he added, is also intensifying efforts to step up export of non-conventional commodities to reduce the existing imbalance.

He added that a number of policy measures had been taken to organise the export sector conforming to the framework of macro-economic priorities of the nation.

He said the results so far achieved were quite encouraging. Exports had more than doubled in two years. The total export earning of the country rose from $1.7 billion in 1978-79 to 2.4 billion dollars in 1979-80 and were expected to exceed the target of $2.6 billion during the current fiscal year.

APP adds: The country, he stressed was handicapped in expanding traditional export of its textile products due to restrictions imposed on them in the overseas markets. Attempts were, therefore, being made to diversify the exports. In this connection, he said, special attention was being paid to strengthen engineering goods manufacturing industry which held immense prospects of growth. At the same time, export of high value added manufactured goods was being encouraged to increase share of this category in the total national exports.

The Secretary informed the mission the Government had also initiated two-pronged strategy to improve the situation. While adequate incentives were provided to the exporters in various forms enabling them to enhance level of their exports, the import policy had been simplified allowing liberal imports of industrial raw materials for the export oriented industries. He said steps had also been taken to ensure quality of exportable products.

The Commerce Secretary expressed the hope the council would make positive contribution towards increasing the flow of trade between Pakistan and the United States.

The members of the mission assured they would persuade the American businessmen to make investments in mutually beneficial projects in Pakistan.

PPI adds: The mission held a detailed meeting with country's leading industrialists at the Ministry of Industries here today to explore the possibilities of U.S. investment in Pakistan.

Official sources later said matters relating to the promotion of U.S. investment in Pakistan were discussed and certain areas were identified. The members of the economic council also felt that there was wider scope of investment in Pakistan. About a dozen industrialists attended the meeting.

CSO: 4220/255

NEED SEEN FOR EXPANSION OF RETAIL STORES, STABLE PRICES

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 81 p 4

[Editorial: "That Kilo of Meat"]

[Text]

To the best of our knowledge the officially fixed retail price of mutton is still Rs. 18 per kilo, while the rate for beef is Rs. 8, but it seems an age since these were the actual selling rates in the market. Mutton is available only at Rs. 24 plus per kilo and beef for Rs. 12 or thereabouts. Obviously fines, arrests and the threat of lashes have not penetrated the thick skins of the butchers who establish their own price norms regardless of the Deputy Commissioner's rulings. Correction: you can still buy something resembling mutton and beef at the controlled price, but only the family cat or dog would care to make a meal of those parts of goat and cow anatomy. Occasional action by price-enforcing authorities brings no overall, lasting results. If anything, it shows that in the matter of price regulation the Government with all its powers is as helpless as the faceless consumer. Exhortations by public spokesmen urging us not to buy from profiteers is no remedy. The affluent minority treats consumer resistance efforts with amused contempt: they can buy whole animals for their deep freezes, leaving the ordinary householder to squeeze his tight budget as best he can, paying the proverbial more and more for less and less. Other essential foods such as eggs, pulses, poultry and fish on which there is no control continue to rise in cost quite arbitrarily, leaving the customer with no options. The setting up of utility stores and fair price shops for essential consumer goods has not brought the expected relief; the flow of supplies is far short of the demand; and a vast majority of buyers have no access to these outlets. Work should, therefore, continue to expand and improve the functioning of retail stores which sell at stable prices to eventually force down high prices charged by private traders. Punitive measures for open violations must continue, there is no room for complacency.

CSO: 4220/255

MORE WORK NEEDED TO ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN AGRICULTURE

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Apr 81 p 4

[Editorial: "Crop Position"]

[Text]

After the eccentric pattern of rainfall in the agricultural regions last month it was feared that Pakistan's main food crops would suffer damage and there would be a consequent shortfall of products. Mercifully, the fears have proved unfounded. Since around 80 per cent of our population is in one way or another connected with agriculture, success in the sector is basic to our condition of survival; in fact, our very resilience in the face of an ever increasing crisis in the international economic order is owed to our capacity to fall back on agriculture. Our problems began a few years ago when this agricultural base began to crumble as a result of chaotic policies pursued by the former regime. We were repeatedly compelled to import large quantities of wheat and our foremost foreign-exchange earner cotton, suffered so sharp a decline in production that we were compelled to suspend its export to keep alive the domestic market. We may face imponderable difficulties in the industrial sector where the inputs are geared to foreign markets but in the field of agriculture our reliance is completely on local resources. That is why the thrust for autarky has intensified over the past three years.

Even after the freak rains we hope to surpass the wheat target of 11.34 million tons this year. An assessment issued by the Federal Wheat Review Committee indicates that all the four Provinces will meet their wheat production targets. Sind will do better than others. The damage sustained from rain and hailstorm in the

Punjab and Sind has been negligible and will not affect the expected production levels, although there is no doubt that the affected 50,000 acres in the Punjab and the area of Nawabshah in Sind would have helped us acquire larger food reserves. In the beginning of the season the agriculturist feared that the reduction in the Government subsidy to phosphate fertilisers would curtail the area under wheat cultivation but these misgivings have been belied by an actual increase in acreage under wheat. The prospect of wheat is shared by cotton which is expected to reach the ceiling of 4.3 million bales. There is sufficient supply of sugar in the country but the cultivation of sugar-cane could be substantially improved. The per acre yield of sugar-cane in Pakistan is 400 maunds which is the lowest in the world. We have lagged behind in intensive cultivation and can hardly boast about per-acre yield in our leading crops. Our management and planning in the crucial sector of agriculture has been inadequate. Crop estimates are sometimes erroneous, which leads to the adoption of incorrect remedial measures thus further aggravating the situation on the ground. This year the rice crop has suffered a setback because its area under cultivation has been allowed to decrease. The cultivation of pulses, an important sector in food crops, has not improved over decades and we seem helpless about it. We have a long distance to traverse to the cherished objective of autarky and surplus.

LEFT PARTIES REPORTEDLY TEND TOWARD UNITED FRONT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Mar 81 p 6

[Text] Colombo: Sri Lanka's centrist and left opposition parties appear to be moving towards another "united front" to take on the ruling rightwing United National Party (UNP) at the forthcoming elections to the district development councils and eventually the general election due in October 1983.

But they are themselves not sure whether they could hold together if they succeed in keeping out the UNP both at the district and national levels as there is a wide divergence in their policies and programmes. This fact has been acknowledged by the leaders of the two main opposition parties in Parliament, the former Prime Minister Mr Sirimavo Bandaranaike's centrist Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), as was evident during the recent debate on the bill providing for the holding of elections to district development councils.

Mr A. Amirthalingam, general secretary of the TULF and leader of the opposition in Parliament, has said his party will not deviate from its goal of a separate state for themselves in north Sri Lanka, called Eelam, in which "alone can we live with dignity and self-respect."

At the same time, his party is willing to work together with the other opposition groups to halt the "authoritarian trend" of the government.

On behalf of the SLFP, its deputy leader, Mr Maithripala Senanayake, and Mr Anura Bandaranaike both have stated that the TULF has a right to ask for Eelam but their party will not agree to it. However, they are willing to work with the TULF to resist "undemocratic actions" of the government.

Socialist Democracy

On the question of Eelam, the SLFP is in the same position as the UNP, the other major Sinhalese party; it cannot agree to this demand without the risk of antagonising the Sinhalese community who are vehemently opposed to any division of the country.

Eelam apart, both SLFP and TULF stand for socialist democracy. This socialist nexus has brought into a loose alliance with them three other opposition parties,

the Trotskyist Party, the pro-Mao Communist Party and the nationalist-socialist People's United Front. The pro-Moscow Communist Party, however, is still holding off but is eventually likely to go along with them. In fact, it won the recent Kalawana parliamentary byelection with their support.

Past experience at the polls is tending to bring the opposition parties together at the elections to the district development councils which is likely to be held in April or May.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT WORRIED OVER RISING COST OF LIVING

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Mar 81 p 8

[Text] Colombo: Sri Lanka's cost of living has now reached dizzy heights, causing serious concern to both the people and President Jayewardene's right-wing United National Party government.

The official cost of living index, which stood at 203 points when the UNP took office in July 1977, is now at 345 points. But the Central Bank has pointed out that it does not reflect the actual changes in the price level as it includes a number of goods and services available at subsidised rates. A better index, it says, is the wholesale price index which, in the relevant period, has increased from 135 points to 265 points.

But according to opposition politicians and trade unions, prices have, in reality, increased four-fold in the past four years. They point to the escalation in the cost of the Mahaweli development project, which is at the core of the government's development plan. Estimated to cost Rs 8 billion in 1978, it has now gone up to Rs 31 billion.

Hike in Import Prices

The soaring cost of living and the rising unemployment, were the twin factors that worked against former Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's regime to the advantage of Mr Jayewardene's UNP at the last election. During the campaign, UNP leaders pledged to provide quick and substantial relief. But after four years in office, both problems have become aggravated.

Now, the government says that it cannot hope to bring down prices because of "factors beyond our control." The obvious reference is to the hike in import prices, especially of fuel.

Political opponents, however, say that the government itself in fuelling the situation by failing to observe financial discipline. Unbridled spending on prestigious projects like the new administrative capital and parliamentary complex on futuristic lines, and corruption and waste on a colossal scale, are major factors in pushing up prices they contend.

To lighten the burden on the people, the government granted four salary increases but they were not adequate enough. Trade unions are now demanding a further substantial rise.

Malnutrition Rampant

According to a study by the independent WEEKEND, a family of six now requires over Rs 600/- a month just to have three meagre meals a day and the government itself has admitted that nearly half the households in the country have an income of less than Rs 300/- a month.

The study reveals that a six-member family needs Rs 25 a day, or Rs 750/- a month for meals alone. This does not include milk, butter or jam, fruits, meat, fish, pulses and good vegetables. "Then what of the other expenses" asks the WEEKEND. It warns, "If the situation goes on like this, Sri Lanka will not need family planning. Malnutrition, will take care of our population problem."

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS--Colombo, March 30 (UNI)--Nationwide elections to proposed district level development councils in redemption of the ruling United National Party's manifestoed pledge of 1977 to diffuse power from the centre will be held on 4 June. President J R Jayewardene, who announced the poll date at a public meeting yesterday, reportedly said the one-day 'mini' general election would be free and fair and he would leave no room for anyone to insult or harm political rivals. The Government decision to hold the elections at an estimated cost of over Rs 70 million close on the heels of the equally costly census operations in the midst of an officially admitted 'worsening economic crisis' is seen in political circles here as a clever gambit move by President Jayewardene to confound the confused Opposition partries [as published] on the one hand and to judge 'popular mood' on the other. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 31 Mar 81 p 3]

CSO: 4220/7446 END

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May 7, 1981